

# Complete Ideological Discoveries

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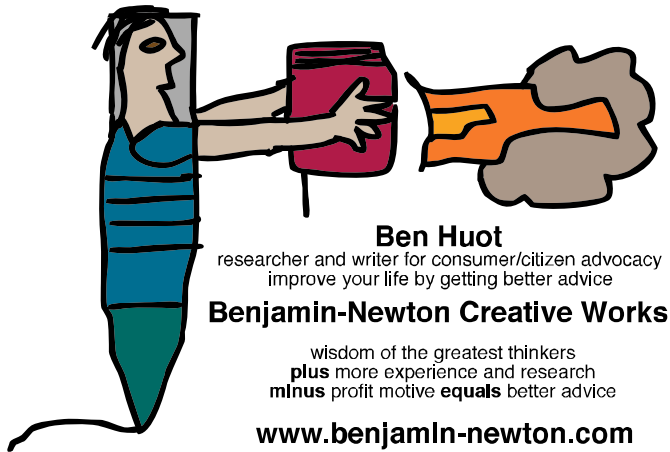


# **Chapter 1**

## **First Things**

by Ben Huot

## 1.1 Logo

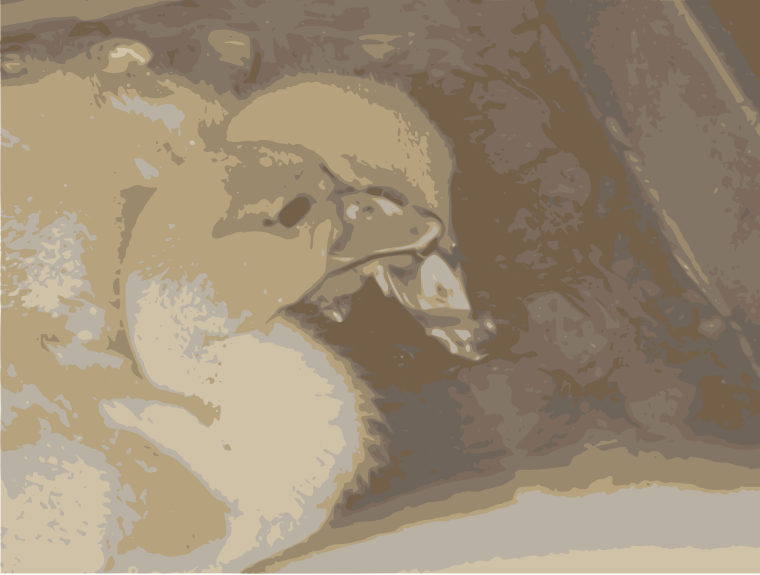


## 1.2 For More Information

**F**or more books and information, visit me on the web at  
<http://benjamin-newton.com/>

Feel free to send me e-mail regarding the books and website at <mailto:ben@benjamin-newton.com> I even enjoy constructive criticism

## 1.3 Cover Graphic



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### **1.5 Introduction**

This collection, Complete Ideological Discoveries, contains most of my writings on the topics of philosophy and religion, including: my intellectual discoveries, my worldview and message, how to learn values, and general information on philosophy and theology that are commonly misunderstood. This book contains Theoretical Breakthroughs and the Book of Belief.







## **Chapter 2**

# **Theoretical Breakthroughs**

by Ben Huot

## **2.1 Intellectual Breakthroughs**

### **2.1.1 Philosophical Positions**

#### **Hermeneutic (Method of Interpretation)**

- **I** use primary sources to derive theology or philosophy for a particular belief system
- I focus on what I see as the pure or original interpretation of the philosophy or theology
- I do not research current or past deviations of each major belief system

#### **Practice and Bible Derived Reasoning**

##### **General Methods**

- My method of ethical reasoning is derived from practical considerations.
- My method of theological reasoning comes from Biblical considerations.
- My method brings these perspectives to their logical conclusions.
- My theory is based on what the Bible says about theology and what helps influence a person do the right thing.
- I back track the way people should act according to the Bible and what the Bible says about God into a theory that is most consistent with these outcomes.

##### **Applications according to Theory**

- My theology, Towards a Philosophy of the Bible, mirrors what the Bible says about God and a solution to suffering that best answers this problem.

- My ethics, Still Theory, are based on a combination of the philosophies most consistent with the Bible and having the least major ethical dilemmas and answers postmodern questions about suffering and uncertainty.
- My psychology, Liberation Psychology/Theology, enables the person to be their own advocate and focuses on religion as a secondary approach to solving lingering problems with Schizophrenia, as the most effective practice is to take the medication.
- My aesthetics, Bible Model Aesthetics, works to solve practical issues like accessibility, morality, and quality from a Biblical perspective.
- My sociology/biology, Community through the Humanities, focuses on finding harmony with the groups of people we come into contact with in real world situations and applying ethics from Still Theory.
- My theory of education, Learning of the Heart, is based on the realities of life and how people can know what is right and wrong.

### **Contrasting Theories of Education**

#### **Learning of the Mind**

- The establishment assumes that public education through high school prepares a person for the world
- The establishment assumes that everyone should be educated in the same manner
- The establishment assumes that they know best what the public needs to learn
- The establishment assumes that what they believe is right and wrong should be imposed on everyone else
- The establishment assumes that public education improves people's social status and morality

- The establishment assumes that with slight modifications, they will get radically different societies

### Learning of the Heart

I believe that being prepared for the world is a combination of different things, which the public school system fails at all of them, including:

- understand how the establishment works, how to use it to improve one's life, and avoid it changing the individual or placing more limits than normal on the individual
- develop critical thinking skills and determine what is right and wrong by conscience
- develop a useful skill for financial support and independence
- I believe that different people should be taught different things
- I believe that people know what is right and wrong at birth
- I believe that the world's idea of right and wrong is contrary to God's
- I believe that people's social status is determined by who they know and what status their parents have and their morality is determined by personal choice
- I believe that in order to radically change society, we must make major changes

### Unified Social Theory of Natural Science

- All creatures that feel pain should be kept from any unnecessary suffering
- The difference between humans and animals is a matter of degree
- Human beings are not defined by any distinct characteristics in the Bible

- The distinguishing factor between people and animals is a social construct
- People have social and physical power over animals and are responsible for their well being
- Flora should be treated with respect to their well being as well as fauna
- Water and cells should be carefully looked after as they are the building blocks of life
- The earth should be treated with the same respect as other life forms
- Preservation of life does not mean no harm is done
- Although animals and people may be perceived as the same, the human has a responsibility to look after the animal
- Not subjecting sentient beings to physical pain is just the beginning of a social ethic
- Humans should use their resources to actively advocate for the well being of all sentient beings

### **2.1.2 College Education**

#### **Conservative Curriculum**

Some study to learn  
What others have dreamed of  
Some study to learn  
What is popular  
Some study to learn  
The values of the past  
Some study to learn  
The traditions of their ancestors  
Some study to learn  
What they already believe  
Some study to learn  
What is well understood  
Some study to learn

To be respected by others  
Some study to learn  
The path well traveled  
Some study to learn  
From a specific ideology  
Some study to learn  
From what others tell them  
Some study to learn  
To be opinion leaders  
Some study to learn  
To memorize information  
Some study to learn  
Rules others have made  
Some study to learn  
What is practical  
Some study to learn  
What is widely accepted  
Some study to learn  
What isn't controversial  
Some study to learn  
Without questioning

### **Liberal Arts**

There are few colleges  
Where you can create  
Your own major  
There are few colleges  
That encourage you to think  
There are few colleges  
That care about  
More than reputation  
There are few colleges  
That don't bend over backwards  
For a few dollars in grants  
There are few colleges  
Who dare to have a vision  
There are few colleges  
Who don't depend on sports  
For getting funding  
And recruiting students

There are few colleges  
Who are not indebted to  
Government and big business  
There are few colleges  
Who control their own curriculum  
There are few colleges  
That challenge the status quo  
There are few colleges  
That prepare students  
For unpredicted changes  
In the future of society  
There are few colleges  
That take pride in  
Creating controversy  
On campus  
There are few colleges  
That spend as much  
On human development  
Than on Scientific research

### **College Football**

America is a society  
Oriented around sports  
We believe that competition  
Brings positive change  
We believe that physical fitness  
Is more important than education  
We believe that winning  
Is the most important method for change  
We are aggressive in business and politics  
We are not interested in the community  
The leaders only care about  
Their own status and wealth  
Our young all believe  
That they will play  
American football for money  
They either want to get money  
For being famous  
Or get a welfare check  
Our athletes make millions of dollars

For running a ball across a line  
The players feel tough  
Because they run into each other  
We think that being a man  
Means memorizing sports statistics  
We spend most our time  
Talking about what teams win  
And about our football team  
We played on in high school  
We believe that we peaked in college  
And that the only thing important  
Is whose team won the game

### **Lost Opportunities**

How will we compete  
When every one  
Has a college degree?  
Will we have to get doctorates  
For a family wage job?  
How are we to pay  
For our education  
When our families  
Are too rich  
To receive aid  
But too poor  
To afford to help?  
Will anyones be rewarded  
For a liberal arts degree?  
The only degrees that pay  
Are business and engineering  
Is that what  
We want to base  
Our future on  
Technology alone  
With no room  
For the arts or religion?  
We only care about  
What is the quickest way  
To build things  
Bigger, better, and faster



We have no culture  
And no reason to create  
We have no imagination  
Or reason to live  
Other than for  
Getting drunk after work  
Or losing ourselves  
In virtual worlds  
We are afraid  
To confront reality  
And solve real problems  
We are told  
The problems are too complex  
And we need  
To solve problems  
Through politics and business  
We don't have the creativity  
Or the time and energy  
To pursue positive change

### **2.1.3 Philosophy of Religion**

#### **Theology includes Philosophy**

Everyone has a perspective  
Everyone has opinions  
There is nothing theological  
That is not influenced by philosophy  
We do not live in a vacuum  
And ideas come from somewhere  
There are no new philosophies  
Just restatements done with less eloquence  
There is no way to only study the Bible  
We are only fooling ourselves  
And no one else  
We cannot distance ourselves  
From our own foolishness  
We are corrupt to the core  
It is not possible to read the Bible  
Without prejudice and without feelings  
The Bible is not meant to be

A list of rules or a systematic theology  
Don't you think there is a reason  
That there are so many views on  
Every branch of theology?  
The Bible is not meant to be interpreted  
The same by the entire church  
The Bible is not about a set theology  
No one will ever uncover  
The full philosophy of the Bible  
The greatest theologians  
Have only scratched the surface  
And were wrong more times  
Than they were right  
Verses don't mean just one thing  
The Bible should not  
Be read in any set order  
Verses should not stand alone  
There are no hidden meanings  
But few meanings have been found  
There is more to a single phrase  
Than can be understood  
By the human mind in all eternity  
And the Bible is only one small part  
Of who God is  
To say we were only influenced by the Bible  
Or that we believe what the Bible says  
Does not adequately explain our beliefs  
We have presuppositions and experiences  
But these aren't necessarily stumbling blocks  
Feelings are great and mental exercises are of  
use  
But we need to reflect on our background  
Or we will be repeating the mistakes  
Of even the greatest of theologians  
It is ok to not be right on even the main points  
To disagree creates a healthy diversity  
The church does not need core beliefs  
Our doctrines only hold us back  
There is more to life than theology  
And there is more to the Bible  
Than your statements of faith

**Honesty**

When you make claims  
Which you use Scripture  
To support your position  
It is not honest  
When you don't state  
Your intentions up front  
And explain your background  
We are not merely spiritual beings  
We are not just vessels  
Of God's will  
We have our own  
Hopes, desires, and dreams  
We are not pure spirits  
With empty minds  
There is a psychology  
To religious beliefs  
Ideas don't come  
Out of a vacuum  
We cannot wall ourselves  
Off from unbelievers  
We cannot understand  
Our culture expect by  
Reading books  
Besides the Bible  
Our minds are sponges  
And we absorb ideas  
From places we are  
Often unaware  
This is the use of  
The study of philosophy  
We get impressions  
From many venues  
We just assume  
They are all from the Bible  
Just because we are Christians  
What we come up with  
Is not independent  
Of our culture and history  
Ideas influence us

In subtle and surprising ways  
We do not need to read a book  
To be influenced by capitalism  
Or to evaluate atheism  
We are part of a larger  
Ecosystem of dialogue  
Great thinkers build  
On what others have said  
Christian and otherwise  
Great theologians study philosophy  
Some of the greatest philosophers  
Were trained as theologians first  
The early church adopted  
Many ideas from Greek paganism  
There is no way to be purely Christian  
Without affection and sympathies

### **Freedom of Choice**

Scripture is not meant  
To be understood intellectually  
Nor by our feelings alone  
Although Scripture ministers  
To all areas of our person  
We should keep our focus  
On the heart and the will  
It is good to have diversity  
Especially in opinion and perspective  
The Bible is not meant  
To be interpreted in just one way  
We don't need an entire denomination  
To be in agreement on any doctrine  
Don't you think there is a reason  
Why no one can agree  
Or that theologians were interested  
In such different topics  
Throughout divergent eras?  
The more widespread the views  
The harder it is to see a pattern  
God deliberately designed the Bible  
To be poetic instead of legalistic

God could have just written  
A list of rules and left it at that  
We could just turn off our brains entirely  
But that is not God's nature  
He wants us to make rational decisions  
And for different people  
To go into different directions  
And to see the Bible from different views  
We have to realize that God speaks  
To our entire person  
That God is spirit and flesh  
Christianity is not meant to be an organization  
Or to have a rigid structure  
Even the Bible explains salvation  
Differently every time  
All believers will enter Heaven by grace  
But each will do it in a different way

### **2.1.4 Striking Back**

#### **What is Rational?**

What is the definition of rational?  
Believing that man is the highest good  
Or that his intellect can grasp everything  
Do you think you can disprove God  
By quoting a famous atheist?  
You win an argument  
But just show your own limitations  
And your own weak intellect  
Not everything is meant to be  
Analyzed in the Scientific method  
What cannot be disproved  
Is greater than that which can be proven  
Guess and check can only go so far  
And scientists are as bigoted  
And resistant to change and new ideas  
Than as are any other bureaucrats  
The ideas of Science may have  
At one time been an area for non-conformists  
But it is no longer

Everyone believes in Science  
And that is a great weakness  
The masses can be convinced of anything  
Scientists fail to realize  
That it was their community that  
Made a fool of Galileo  
The first scientist was a smart ass  
When your belief system  
Can only understand matter-energy  
Aren't you smart enough  
To realize that it cannot explain  
Anything important  
It is not wrong to have a theory  
To explain something  
But when you use it as an excuse  
To hide from spiritual realities  
Who is the greater fool?  
It doesn't matter how good you are at debate  
Or how many facts you have on your side  
Some things just don't make sense  
Just because the entire Scientific establishment  
Believes in one thing, the masses think it is  
true  
No matter how many times  
Society confuses facts with truth  
The number of believers is growing worldwide  
It is interesting that those who think  
They are so enlightened  
As to be better informed than God  
And think that they are the enemy of the es-  
tablishment  
That their ideas resonate best with  
The people who create the problems  
They are trying to fix  
If the same system that said the world is flat  
Now even admits they cannot observe  
95% of the mass of the universe  
Why should I believe them about evolution?  
For a community that shuns innovators  
And anything unusual or different  
And is mainly motivated by prestige

Why would I believe anything  
They print in numbers  
And collect evidence for?  
If scientists would study other philosophies  
They would start to realize that the world  
Is much bigger than Science  
And that the real problems in life  
Are not going to be solved by more technology  
That we are never going to resolve  
The true cause of suffering through education  
That the innovation that will bring solutions  
Is something that was written down 2,000 years  
ago  
That the most unusual ideas were some of the  
oldest  
That we are just re-inventing what China  
Designed thousands of years ago  
Without the Scientific method  
If the Chinese were not smart enough  
To keep the empire going  
How are we going to be able to survive  
A few more generations of Science?  
One of the big problems with Science  
Is it has no ethical foundation  
Just as you cannot add security onto technology  
Not designed with a firm foundation  
Ethics are not just an add on  
People do not become ethical by  
Attending a one semester course  
Or even after earning a Ph.D. in philosophy  
It is not that we do not know enough  
To do find a solution to our problems  
But that we need a way to stop  
Ourselves from creating more problems  
Self control is the key to our survival  
But the solution is not an invention  
But supernatural intervention

### **Where Blame is Due**

If Christianity is to blame for everything

People claim it is  
Then why is there so much more evil  
Done by countries which are primarily atheist?  
Before jumping on the bandwagon  
And blaming every problem on Christianity  
People should actually read what the Bible  
says  
The Bible never says it is ok to mistreat animals  
Augustine and Thomas Aquinas hated animals  
But their theology is based more on Greek paganism  
Than it is on any possible interpretation  
Of the Bible come up with by the biggest idiot  
The Bible holds humans responsible for taking  
care  
Of the entire ecosystem  
Not only are we responsible for what we have  
done  
But we must correct any problems no matter  
How they were caused  
Unlike what the religious wrong say  
The Bible states very clearly in several places  
That there is no distinction between man and  
woman  
Or peoples of any race or any other background  
Contrary to popular belief, the Bible does not  
say  
That corporations should control the government  
Or that the wealthy got that way because  
They were following God's laws  
The Bible says over and over and gives many  
examples  
Of moral people who loved God and suffered  
terribly  
Many times exactly because of it  
Contrary to popular belief, claiming to be born  
again  
Does not get you to Heaven according to the  
Bible



You have to humble yourself before God  
And believe you are equal to your fellow man  
Before you can be saved  
According to the Bible, environmental destruction  
And stealing from people's retirements are sins  
And are greater than that of committing adultery one time  
Unlike what many people think  
The Bible does not tell you everything to do  
And is designed for there to be different interpretations  
Of many ideas in theology  
Similar to Taoism, the theology of the Bible is no-dualistic  
Even though many Christians treat Paul's letters  
Like analytical arguments, they are really mystical  
Unlike what many Christians believe  
The Bible encourages study of other religions and  
Being intellectual by Paul's example alone  
The religious ideas the Bible disparages come from  
Occult religions like Greek Paganism  
Which has been synchronized with Christianity  
By Augustine and Thomas Aquinas

### **God and Country**

The religious wrong have long believed  
That America was a Christian nation  
What America really was and this includes  
The religious wrong  
Is founded on the idea of  
Not wanting to pay taxes  
The founding fathers were anarchists  
So to follow in their foot steps  
Would be to overthrow the current government  
The United States has always been

An aggressive and violent nation  
Something we inherited from the English  
We thought we were better than  
The rest of the world  
It was our duty to spread our power  
No matter what the cost  
Following in the footsteps of the English  
We held people as slaves even though  
We claimed to be a democracy  
We used biological weapons on the  
Native Americans and dishonored treaties  
These are not things a Christian nation would  
do  
They do not honor God  
And they do not promote human dignity  
Now the religious wrong want us to protect  
Humans that are not even born  
But thinks it is ok to torture baby animals  
In their use for food and experiments  
Both of which are unnecessary  
They believe that monopolies/dictatorships are  
good  
And that our bill of rights is unimportant  
They are against giving to charities  
They instead want to tax the poor  
And give it to the rich to make bigger weapons  
with  
They are using a couple of attacks worldwide  
As an excuse to invade another nation  
When it had no intention of attacking anyone  
So our dictator could settle an old score  
The American House of Bush  
Loves to redefine worlds until they have no  
meaning  
They have over written every law against pol-  
lution  
So a couple rich white men can get even richer  
He has held teachers responsible for how  
Prepared the kids are for school without  
Factoring in different socioeconomic conditions  
Which will ultimately destroy the school sys-

tem  
After doing all this our dictator has the audacity  
To claim he is a born again Christian  
There is absolutely nothing Christian  
About the way this creep acts

### **Medieval Morality**

Enlightenment writers love to denigrate  
The European Medieval period  
By referring to it as the Dark Ages  
Because they hated God so much  
And they were enamored by material wealth  
And advanced technology used in warfare  
They blamed all their problems on God  
Modern authors refer to the time  
As being backwards and violent  
What they really hate is that it was  
A relative time of material poverty for Europe  
After the fall of the Roman Empire  
The entirety of Europe struggled to survive  
But people don't see the bright side  
Without the wealth to destroy others  
And depending on the harvest for their food  
People began to rely upon God  
And had respect for God and nature  
People still had evil in their hearts  
But the scale of destruction was  
Exponentially less than in "enlightened times"  
In fact, although historians love to blame  
Christianity for the big wars of the next 500  
years  
The Church was losing more and more power  
As things began to be more and more violent  
People saw Science as a way they could  
One up God and avoid those inconvenient  
Sexual and financial morals  
See the main problem with Science is  
That it has no formal ethics as part  
Of its system of discovery

The superiority of philosophy  
Is that it has an ethics  
The superiority of religion  
Is that is also has a reason  
The superiority of Christianity  
Is that is also gives a way

### **A Matter of Faith**

Many people believe  
That evolution should be  
Accepted because  
Most scientists believe it  
They say it should just be  
A matter of evidence  
I believe it as a matter of faith  
First of all, Science did not  
Just arrive out of nowhere  
And was not always  
The way everything was decided  
Neither are we more advanced  
For relying on it for everything  
Science was invented and came out  
Of a particular western philosophical  
School called the Enlightenment  
Contrary to popular belief  
Most technologies of the modern world  
Were not invented by Europeans or  
By their precious Science  
They were dreamed up and produced  
First by the Chinese  
In fact, the Industrial Revolution  
Came about from our discovery  
Of Chinese technologies  
Invented hundreds or even thousands  
Of years earlier  
There are many other methods  
Of discovery and verification  
Jainism has a number all by itself  
The five senses, testimony, ESP,  
telepathy, and an all knowing ascended being

Mystics have a number as well  
Faith, intuition, and prophetic visions  
Most schools of Hinduism  
Verify knowledge by  
Perception, inference, comparison, and testimony  
So we see that Science is only  
One school out of many  
In the panorama of philosophy  
Even if I would be convinced  
If provided the evidence  
In the Scientific form  
It would not be possible  
For me to accept evolution  
Except by blind faith  
Because it requires a Ph.D.  
In Science to have the background  
To make an informed position  
Otherwise it is just oversimplified  
And I have seen this done  
In philosophy and religion  
So I would only trust my own  
Research into the theory of evolution

### **Circular Argument**

Most people believe anything  
Someone with a Scientific education says  
How do they prove things?  
By facts, of course  
How have they proven  
That facts are truth?  
Because that is Scientific  
Facts determine details about  
Specific events and measurements  
But how does one prove Love?  
How does one disprove it?  
Many people believe if there  
Are no facts for proving something  
Than it must not be true  
But facts are less important

Than things determined by faith  
Things determined by experience  
Things determined by reflection  
Things determined by immersion  
In a particular field of work  
Things determined by scripture  
Things determined by miraculous  
Answers to prayer  
If there is nothing to prove  
That facts are true  
Other than a circular argument  
Then why do we base our society  
On this shaky ground  
And why do we force  
This viewpoint on young children?  
Our world is getting worse and worse  
The more we use facts  
To determine policy and direction  
Shouldn't we base our ideas  
By what works and what doesn't  
In the real world  
With cold, hard truth  
Not by just flimsy facts  
After all, it's not like it's hard  
To present lies as facts

### **Only One Answer**

There are few things in life  
That only have one answer  
This is one of the things  
People like so much about Science  
But this a false premise  
As Science is only one way  
Of discovery  
And is only applicable  
To one way of thinking  
Coming from the culture of  
One part of the world  
Having multiple answers  
Is the great thing about art,

Philosophy, and religion  
The humanities are the only  
Fields that treat other cultures  
With dignity and respect  
They are the only ones  
That explain what being  
Sentient is like  
They answer the most  
Important questions  
Better because they can  
Have multiple answers  
Most things in life are paradoxes  
Which aren't very compatible  
With Science and math  
How can you reduce  
Most fundamental problems  
Down to one solution?  
How can you explain  
Feelings in numbers and attributes?  
How do you express mystery  
With a system that is designed  
To explain everything?  
Ever wonder why economists  
Can't predict the future  
With mathematical models  
Or why it is so hard to  
Communicate with psychologists?  
Ever wonder why scientists  
Are surprised when they  
Discover animals are sentient  
Or can have mental disorders?  
We have an ancient heritage  
Of wisdom and understanding  
That is aware of things  
Science can only dream of  
To rely on a system that  
Ignores questions of the spirit  
Or things that cannot be tested  
Under controlled conditions  
To guide society into a better world  
Shows that our world no longer

Values the truth and is only looking  
For easy solutions and doesn't care  
About how bad the consequences are

## **2.2 Social Breakthroughs**

### **2.2.1 Religion**

#### **Philosophy of Life and Death**

Many Christians see salvation as an end and not just a beginning. They absolve themselves of doing any help in the world, because they see the world as corrupt and take the easy answer of letting the world fall apart. They look knowingly at each other and think they are so much better, because they are saved.

This is based on the theology of saved by faith alone, but it is not consistent, even within its own system. If God saved us, because we repent of our sins, then why do we think we are better than others? We are all equally bad and God's criteria for reaching out to us is just that we humble ourselves before God and consider ourselves equal to unbelievers. If we can't even do that, how can we consider ourselves to be born again or followers of Christ?

If Christ, who is God Himself, did not even consider Himself equal to God and submitted Himself to the authority of men, then where do we get off thinking that we are better than unbelievers. Often, theologians compare Christ's descent to being human as equivalent to us descending to being a bug, but this is a gross exaggeration of our worth and gross simplification of God's glory above man. Christ being born as a human is more equivalent to use giving up our existence permanently.

God is not limited by any thing and He is so far above us that we amount to a grand total of zero in comparison to God. It is a miracle that any of us is actually saved and the effort is almost entirely on God's side. It is not that our submission to God means anything, but just a rightful understanding of our place in the universe; it is the grace of God that does the work.



It is important that we make a choice, to submit ourselves before God, but this is just the beginning of the path. Just because we can't get beyond grace, salvation, and faith, does not mean that we do not make the effort to grow. Just because the world is going to end soon is no reason to let everybody suffer, without attempting any way, to help reduce the suffering.

The majority of the Bible tells about how we should live our lives, while on earth. If we really want mass conversions to the Christianity of the Bible, we are going to have to show unbelievers that we truly value life.

For a person to choose a philosophy of death and to totally give up on improving the world is a defeatist mentality. How can we expect to have victory in Christ if it doesn't start by reaching out to our own communities in Christ reflected love?

### **Future World Religion Trends**

By the year 2050, the term White Christian will be an oxymoron. If you take into account the actual faithfulness of people calling themselves Christian, the Christian world has already shifted to the Southern Hemisphere. In many of the countries throughout the world, they are not as honest at doing statistics as in the United States, where predominantly Muslim countries are going to severely undercount the number of Christians and the same will happen in the predominantly Hindu country of India.

Europe had not entirely converted to Christianity until the 14th century and there were more Christians in Asia than in Europe, until the years 1000. Most of the reduction of Christians in the Middle East happened in the late 19th and 20th century. The first big reduction of Christians in the Middle East came, after they supported the Mongol Empire. The conversion of non-Muslims to Islam was largely brought about by the missionary efforts of the Sufis. 10 percent of the populations of Egypt and Syria are still Christian. Islam is now experiencing a major fundamentalist revival and many more nations are going to be governed under Islamic law.

Many of the most populous African nations have a mixture of Christians and Muslims and there is not the same idea of separation between church and state in Africa than there is as in the West. When a predominantly Christian nation, with a large Muslim minority, declares itself to be a Christian nation or the exact opposite situation occurs, we are going to continue to have major wars in Africa. And now we have nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons on the open black market.

At the same time, Europe is going to have more and more immigrants from Africa, for there to be enough labor pool to keep Europe's economy going. America is going to continue to have a strong Christian minority, reinforced from a strong influx of Christian immigrants from all over the world, especially Latin America. The Pentecostal movement is very strong in Latin America. Europe and the United States are going to be dependent on oil for a long time and this will dramatically affect our alliances. We will continue to be afraid of angering the Muslim nations and will continue to bend over backwards, to keep our supply of oil coming.

Some of the biggest world religions by 2050 will be Pentecostalism, Catholicism and Islam, just counting in the population increase and not on any new converts. Buddhism, which not long ago had 20 percent of the population of Asia, now has shrunk to 5 percent, due to the spread of Communism in traditionally Buddhist countries. Whenever China allows more freedom of religion, it will not be surprising if we find out 10 percent of China is Christian already, even under extreme persecution.

The Christian South tends to be: much more conservative in sexual morality, supernaturally and community oriented, and by all evidence much more biblically based. The most popular book in the Bible in Christian Africa is Revelations. Much of this is due to cultural backgrounds of those in the Southern hemisphere, where: they are coming from animist religions and are in extreme poverty, they experience persecution regularly and have large refugee populations, all of which reinforce the relevance of the Biblical narrative of God's work with Israel, in the Law and in the Prophets.

## **The Case for Liberal Christianity**

If we follow the example of the early Church, as recorded in Acts, we see the early Christians as members of a ideal collective community like an Ashram, Kibbutz, or Monastery. If we follow Jesus example, we would carry out the Gospel, while doing good works, especially in service of those rejected by society. Convincing people to be born again was originally linked with helping out those in need in practical situations. Christianity is inherently liberal in its social aspects.

Now we see famous people, like the American president claim that they are born again Christians, the word Christianity loses all meaning. Voting conservative counters all the money sent to help starving people in Africa. Conservatives (in other word, people following atheistic convictions) voting either Republican or the very similar Democrat, in the United States, just perpetuate the establishment, which is referred to in the Bible as the world and Christ told us to be no part of. In fact, Jesus was most critical of the equivalent of the Church establishment, which at that time was in the form of the Jewish establishment - these are the people referred to as the Pharisees and Saducees.

Although I believe that Christianity is socially liberal, I hold to what the Bible says on salvation and eternity. I see helping others out who are in need, as another note in the same song on the same instrument.

I believe that our American society is pluralistic and that holding people to Biblical standards who aren't born again doesn't make any sense, if you believe in eternal salvation and a literal interpretation of the miraculous of the Bible. The Bible is not about a set of rules, but about a relationship with God. According to Jesus, following the Ten Commandments alone not only doesn't get you to Heaven, but is impossible. And according to Paul, the only way we can keep from sin is by the direct divine intervention of our savior, Christ.

Not only is it non-sensical to expect people to follow the laws of the Bible, without becoming born again first, it actually goes against an orthodox interpretation of the

Bible. Furthermore, if I had the choice of living in an idealistic society with conservative "Christians" as leaders and live in a predominantly atheistic society, I would definitely choose the later. The only kind of Christian dominated society I would want to live under would be directly under the authority of Christ, in the flesh.

The thing on the mind of most conservatives to change about society is to persecute or severely limit the rights of people who are homosexual. Although I believe that homosexuality is a sin, I believe divorce is also, but I don't see many conservatives giving up sexual relations with their previously divorced spouse. And these are the same kinds of people with the same reasons for discriminating against people of color and women in previous generations.

Instead of targeting people, because I don't agree with their values, I seek to help those out who society has rejected. The most rejected by society are animals. Cute little furry animals are kept as prisoners and tortured, so that the chemical and meat industries can collect more cash from unsafe products. Their habitat is destroyed all over the world, in a senseless rush to use up all the world's potentially renewable resources in a couple generations. Also, prisoners are discriminated against. We often see them as the enemy in our society, but we all have sinned and are to forgive our neighbors. So we should help people who have made mistakes to get back a productive place in society and find a way to keep from getting sent back to jail.

### **2.2.2 Innocence Lost**

I used to think that the common conception, that earlier decades of this century or earlier centuries were more innocent, was just nostalgia. But, as I now enjoy watching TV shows that I watched in my youth, I am reminded about how much simpler things were, even 15-20 years ago

## Technology

One of the things that has really complicated life is the increased complexity in software, games, phones, mainly centered around the Internet.

I remember when I first used a computer, the main difference between using the computer for word processing rather than by hand or on a type writer was the ability to cut and paste. When you make the jump from producing for print, to producing for the web or email, the complexity increases at an exponential rate. Things like structured documents and file size matter much less, when you are not moving documents around primarily in an electronic format.

I think the problem is, that things are advancing so fast that we are not able to adjust our society, in a useful way. Criminals, people in the sex industry, and the military understand technology well and make good use of it. But for the average person, just understanding what the main features are, or even what the feature descriptions mean the software does is overwhelming, even for as simple a thing as a word processor, even for me.

I was reading about 2 things over the last several weeks, that sound like very useful technologies, one quite old and the other not even ready for use yet. One is Web 3.0 or the Semantic Web and the other is the RISC OS operating system.

The RISC OS is a operating system first made by the BBC and comes from the United Kingdom (also known as Great Britain). It is not well known anywhere, especially in the United States, but this system is easier to use and more suited to desktop publishing than the latest Mac. It is relatively expensive and is not compatible with many things, but it makes up for this in its well thought out design.

The Semantic Web is a way of getting computers to understand human language better, by making the information smarter. This means giving extra information for the computer, along with the writing designed to be read by humans. This is built on what is called an ontology, or system of knowledge, where the computer is shown how

words are related. This is a very simple level of complexity for the computer to handle, but should make things easier for us. For example, when you search for pizza, the computer doesn't understand that Italian food is related to pizza, so if you search for pizza places, it is not going to list the Italian restaurant.

This is a great idea, but the problem is who gets to decide which ontology to use. What if the ontology said that Jesus Christ is the same as Buddha or Allah?

As our jobs become more and more directly associated with computers, we socialize mainly with computers, and we get entertainment mainly with computers, the less culture we will have. Art created based on watching people type into computers is not a interesting subject for most artists. When I was a kid, if someone could use a computer on a TV show, they were a nerd and specialist and they were only used, as one of many skills. Now on TV shows, almost everyone uses a computer and the computer specialists know a tremendous level of background knowledge and skill, in almost every area of computers.

### **Human Relationships**

Over the last 20 years, the family and other social interactions have changed rapidly and are quite different then they were even a few years ago.

When I was a kid, no one was talking about Gay rights or discrimination against homosexuals. I never thought of the idea of same-sex marriages. There were no actors playing gay main characters on any of the TV shows I watched. Now we have numerous shows where men even kiss on TV and everyone has an opinion on gay marriage.

International relations were different when I was younger. We didn't worry much about terrorism in America and Russia was our main enemy. Russia was falling apart and so we were entering a time of peace without there being any conceivable future threats. When the first Gulf War happened it was fought in a few days.

When I went to school, my parents supported the teachers and we followed the principals rules. Today, par-

ents can get the schools to do anything they want them to by threatening to sue. When I went to school, we didn't know of anyone who was an illegal immigrant. I did not know of anyone on paid school staff who did translating. When we learned about history, it was just about American history and a little history of England. When I went to school, we didn't have any after school programs. But we had numerous sports to choose from.

On sitcoms today, the relationships are totally different. We see the mothers as the leaders of the family, and the dads act like kids. The kids are seen as equal partners in decision making. The parents have the same amount of maturity as their kids. Sex is commonly talked about and the women don't want to get married any more than the men. Women are as interested in the way the guy looks, as the kind of job he has.

### **2.2.3 The Public Mind and American Democracy**

Many young people are critical of America and then my parent's generation will say "it is the worst form of government, except for all others". American democracy works, but not for the reasons people think. Sure we are free to vote, but there are only 2 parties that have a chance of winning and they are almost identical.

Many young people get upset because they want real change and they believe that our democracy should allow them to make radical changes. Then, when they realize it is not possible: they stop voting, they get involved in violent protests and sabotage, they take out their frustrations with their cars, drink heavily or take drugs, or try to do various lobbying efforts.

The reality is that we are not ruled by a democracy but by a dictatorship, but instead of using violence to control people, the dictatorship uses the media to control our world-view. People say that is not true because we can say almost anything we want about the government and there are no censors. As long as it is not communicated to enough people in a way that will convince them, then the government doesn't care.

Controlling people's minds is the best way to control the government. People will put up with almost anything, as long as they think they are well enough off financially. People like to talk about freedom, but really all most people want to do is just follow orders. Most people don't care about doing what is right or wrong, as long as they are members of a large group that can tell them what to believe. It is not that the average person wants to cause problems for others, its just that they are unwilling to change anything about their lives to help.

They key for individuals, who want to do what is the right thing and not just what is comfortable, I would like to introduce: the concept of "no blood on my hands" where we work to limit the amount of destruction we cause to others and use creativity to go "under the radar" so that we are following all the laws, but we are at the same time freeing them from the media controlling our minds and we work to "free others" on a small scale.

"No blood on my hands" means limiting our impact on the environment and the poor. Many things fall under this, which is often called the voluntary simplicity movement. Some of the things I do are: use shampoo and detergent that are not tested on animals, I don't eat beef, I don't drink alcohol, I use open source software, and I give to help farm animals left to starve to death and to Christian ministries in prisons.

"Going under the radar" seems the easiest to do on the Internet. Be part of the long tail, where you appeal to a small segment of the market or a given specialty. You can effectively compete with the likes of Google, Yahoo, and Microsoft in concert with many other specialty sites, without any coordination necessary. You can subvert the media by licensing your work under a creative commons license.

"Freeing others" comes from sharing information that condemns consumerism and materialism. Instead of consuming the information that is produced for the masses, get your information from foreign books and international news from other countries. Another way to free others is to be positive and encourage others. Pray for them and find news of positive things going on in the world.



Most importantly, do not invent any technology that would upset the economy, even in a way that would help others. The government doesn't look kindly on people figuring out how to produce energy for free or anything that fundamentally advances Science.

### **2.2.4 The Protestant Ethic**

Have you ever wondered why so many Republicans are Evangelicals and why so many Evangelicals are Republicans? Because many are both interested in making money. But many are moral because they never spend it - that would be pagan. You too can get rich if you join our church. Our theologians have found the secret to creating wealth - having lots of money to start with.

#### **Hard Work**

My neighbor says  
He wants a website  
You do websites?  
What is it for?  
To sell things  
I am not your man  
I know how to write  
How to design  
How to think  
How to create  
How the technology works  
I have 9 years of experience  
And am hard working  
I can do it for free  
By I don't know how  
To convince people  
To buy something  
It is a common misconception  
That people are poor  
Because they are lazy  
In America we equate  
Hard work with money  
But their are millions

Who would beg to differ  
Proverbs says we should  
Work hard  
But God never promises  
To make us rich  
Even if we follow  
All His commandments  
If godliness equated money  
Or money was to be valued  
Then Jesus would have been rich  
Paul was poor and in prison  
And he was happier then  
Than any time of his life  
Solomon was rich but depressed  
When he had the wealth  
Of the entire world  
He wrote the most  
Nihilistic book of the Bible

### **American Philosophy**

You thought philosophy  
Was the love of knowledge  
But why does it matter  
If it can't make you rich?  
If working 40 hours a week  
Gives you enough money  
To live on  
Then working 80 hours a week  
Will give you money to invest  
If you invest all that money  
You will be rich  
And then you can start  
Your own business  
So you can be a proprietor  
Then you can sell  
Your business  
To make more money  
Don't worry about  
Studying the classics  
It only matters

If you have money  
The more money you have  
The more you can make  
The more time you spend  
The more money you make  
This is all you need to know  
The rest is luck and marketing  
What else is there to life?

### **Faith and Work**

You are a technical writer  
Your job is to write  
About new technology  
Your audience is affluent  
You publish for your advertisers  
You publish facts  
But they seem to always  
Be in favor of whoever  
Pays you the most money  
When you are discovered  
You lash out angrily  
With weakly worded insults  
You get angry comments  
You lose more readers  
Do you think  
You did something wrong?  
Was that you at church  
On Sunday  
In the front row?  
Was it you who ranted on  
About those liberal rascals  
In the church parking lot?  
Do you think you were  
Acting Christian?  
What has that  
Got to do with it?

### **Bad Monk**

He wears a coarse robe

Of brown burlap  
His head is shaved  
And he is silent  
He works in the fields  
In the heat of the day  
He picks oranges  
Atop high ladders  
And makes marmalade  
The following morning  
To give to the  
Orphans and widows  
To bring a smile  
To their little faces  
He kneels down  
For the midnight prayers  
This is how he spends  
Most of his days  
What a waste  
He could be pulling  
A 6 figure salary  
As a professional gambler  
If he would just  
Jump the border  
And steal someone's identity  
No questions would be asked  
He would only be taking  
A job Americans  
Are unwilling to do

### **Religion of Isolation**

God loves me  
And my family  
He doesn't like you  
He chose to save me  
No matter what I do  
I am one of the few  
Who get to go  
To Heaven  
God didn't choose you  
So you got to Hell

I cannot explain  
Why God makes  
Those decisions  
But we have no right  
To contest it  
I don't have to care  
That all my friends  
And coworkers  
Are unbelievers  
I believe they  
Have been specifically  
Chosen to suffer  
For all eternity  
It is all set in stone  
And it doesn't matter  
How you or I act  
You are one of those  
Who haven't been chosen  
I will not associate with you  
Because I am better  
We have exclusive clubs  
And we make more money  
Our kids will be  
Your kids bosses  
God has blessed us  
For His reasons  
We have enough members  
We are not interested  
In your salvation  
We will try to punish you  
By creating laws  
That are based on our  
Odd view of life  
We think everyone  
Should follow our beliefs  
No matter if they believe  
Or not

**Worldly**

The whole world

Is Going to Hell  
Except the members  
Of my church  
If you don't believe  
Just like us  
In our warped  
View of Scripture  
There is no hope  
For you  
Those who are  
Not among us  
Die their hair  
Bright colors  
They paint their fingernails  
All solid black  
They have piercing  
And they have tattoos  
They read Harry Potter  
And listen to  
Liberal radio broadcasts  
And non Christian music  
They have parties  
And watch movies  
They watch TV  
And use the Internet  
They drink alcohol  
Outside of communion  
No one like that  
Would dare come to  
Our church

### **Who Can Help Themselves**

God will only help you  
If you can help yourself  
You are only saved  
If you are rich  
God always blesses you  
In a purely financial way  
Christian charity  
Means having a job

That pays lot of money  
If you can do this  
By your own skills  
Then God will help you  
God looks down on  
Those who are lazy  
Who we can determine  
By those who make  
Only a little money  
Money follows grace  
The point of following  
All of God's commands  
Is to get rich  
If you weren't gaining anything  
Then why would you  
Go to all the effort  
Of going to church  
And raising money  
To send your kids  
To camp in the summer?

### **2.2.5 Capitalism and Atheism**

#### **Un American**

Conservatives say that  
It is un American  
To challenge the power  
Of multinational corporations  
But how American  
Are these companies?  
They don't pay any taxes  
To the American government  
They don't employ US workers  
They are invested in by  
Unstable dictatorships  
Countries in the Middle East  
Their bank accounts are in  
Offshore islands  
Or Swiss banks

### **Democracy vs. Capitalism**

Our enemy during the cold war  
Was communism  
And millions died for this cause  
But what were we fighting for?  
Democracy isn't the opposite of communism  
Any more than medicine  
Is the opposite of sociology  
How could people be against communism?  
A more equitable distribution of wealth  
Should fit in comfortably  
In a country with a distribution of power  
What we were really fighting was dictatorship  
But we supported other dictators  
The only thing that differentiated  
Our "communist" enemies from  
Our dictator friends  
Was who would open their markets  
Their raw materials and cheap labor  
To multi-national corporations  
To sap every drop of possible profit from  
The reality is that no one has ever  
Or would ever give up power willingly  
The only reason why we can speak freely  
In America is because our souls  
Are bought and paid for in full  
The only way the government would allow  
Government that is voted in office  
Is if they had absolute control over the media  
We can say whatever we want in America  
So long as no one hears it or doesn't act on it

### **Freedom and Terror**

We are afraid of being attacked without warn-  
ing  
We lost 3,000 of our people  
Those in the Middle East are tired of being vic-  
tims  
Of American violence



We have killed off hundreds of thousands of  
them  
And we are fighting the wrong nation  
It is just like how the police in America  
Don't bother to solve crimes  
But rather find the nearest person of color  
To be a scapegoat to appease the grieving  
Who is really a threat to who?  
A few thousand poor people  
With improvised weapons living in tents  
Or the most wealthy nation in the world  
Which has the capability to fight the entire  
Rest of the world together and win  
We spend more in a day on war  
Than our entire annual budget for education  
The president thinks it is a waste of money  
To offer free medical care for the poor  
But keeps on donating money to the rich  
Who have drove their companies into the ground  
We spend more on software  
That we could get a better version for free  
Than the annual salary of the person  
Operating the computer  
In a third world country  
Our kids take drugs to escape from reality  
And that finances the Middle Eastern terrorists  
We invade their country but won't  
Destroy the crops that it comes from  
For fear of alienating ourselves from the locals  
There is an easy solution  
It is against the religious beliefs of those  
Who are growing the drugs to continue with it  
So all we need to do is guarantee them the  
same money  
From selling something that is not a drug  
But our government is really afraid of  
Alienating the multi-national corporations  
That got the government elected

### **More than Bread**

Man does not live on bread alone  
What is best for man  
Is not limited to what is best  
For his taste-buds  
And for his sensual enjoyment  
A person has more needs  
Than food clothing and shelter  
Man needs a good relationship  
With God with other people  
And with the animals and plants  
And his entire ecosystem  
Which is primarily spiritual  
What we see is not all there is  
What we can sense is not eternal  
Satisfying our feelings  
And maintaining physical health  
Is not the entire picture  
People have hearts and souls  
They need to help others  
They need to give of themselves  
This may not be a balanced accounting  
In the realm of money  
But the heart and the soul  
Have needs as well  
What the body craves can actually  
Destroy the mind  
What the mind craves can  
Destroy the heart  
We need to know there is more  
To life than eating and sleeping  
What we need to be satisfied  
Is in the giving of ourselves  
To our Heavenly Father first  
In humility and reverence  
And to those who are in need  
Who are physically, emotionally, or spiritually  
Hungry and malnourished  
We need to sacrifice our own needs  
So that we both may live better lives

It is bad to be a slave to work  
But it is worse to be a slave to your belly  
This is the problem  
With solutions to problems  
That are only economic  
This is why communism and capitalism  
Both fail at improving lives  
Like treating medical problems  
Without awareness of the patients minds  
Does not guarantee good health  
It does not matter how much money  
You have or how protected you are  
If you cannot make the lives  
Of anyone else better  
Than how can you call yourself human?  
Even animals help other animals in need  
Even plants provide for life  
Giving of themselves  
And returning the resources back  
When they part with life  
The point of a business is to make money  
At least theoretically  
And a corporation only has a responsibility  
To its shareholders  
There is nothing to be gained  
By society as a whole  
Even if the business advances technology  
Or extends our lives  
Because it is doing it at the cost  
Of other people and animal's welfare  
To live happy and fulfilling lives  
We do not need cell phones  
Or computer games  
Having a more powerful military  
Does not guarantee we will win wars  
Having the best education system  
Does not mean there will be no crime  
Immunizing people against diseases  
Does not guarantee a long life  
Man does not live on bread alone

## Conscience

Some people say we need  
Objective standards to live by  
So that we can all agree  
On what is right and wrong  
We make all these turns of logic  
And people are then  
Afraid to make choices  
Or more likely turned off by  
Ethics in particular  
Or philosophy in general  
We do not need to understand  
The phenomenology of Hegel  
To know what is right  
Is it surprising that basic laws  
Are similar across belief systems  
And that people still find  
The Bible is relevant to them?  
Is it a wonder that atheists  
Are much more likely  
To be afraid of death?  
There are absolutes  
And this does not mean  
That we can be objective  
But rather that the Creator  
Of the multi-verses  
Actually exists  
That we are responsible  
For our own actions  
Whether or not we claim  
We didn't understand  
Do businessman really  
Believe if being honest  
That killing off an entire species  
Or leveling an entire forest  
Or experimenting on animals  
Or wiping out an entire civilization  
Is not wrong?  
People lie and rationalize  
God doesn't

**Logic and Religion**

Why do we need rules?  
Why can we just live  
By doing what helps ourselves?  
How do we define  
What helps ourselves?  
Is there no such thing as generosity?  
Do we think that all our desires  
Could be satisfied on our own?  
Could we have a society  
Where everyone did whatever  
Gained him the most  
And ignored the spiritual dimension?  
Spiritual forces are at play  
And are involved in every thought  
And action we make  
Denying that there is a God  
Does not make it so  
And getting rid of religion  
Because some people abused it  
Does not solve the real problem  
The real problem is that  
When we seek to satisfy  
Our own desires  
And do not keep our focus on God  
And on those in need  
Our desires escalate  
First, we are fed with bread  
Then, all we want is cake  
Then all we want to have is a job  
Then all we want is to be middle class  
Then all we want is a car  
Then all we want is a house  
Then all we want is a wife  
Then all we want is a family  
But seeking all these  
For the benefit of just yourself  
Adds up to a very sad world  
That no one would want to live in  
Do you ever wonder what

Car companies would do  
If wheel technology was patented?  
How would we communicate  
If the English language was copyrighted?  
What if libraries were illegal?  
How could people afford to do research?  
What if we didn't have free education?  
What if there were no scholarships?  
The point is that even the universe  
Did not come out of a vacuum  
We are all interrelated to each other  
And we all have had help  
No one is a self made man  
Businesses get more government money  
Than those on welfare  
We need to see to our whole  
Community and its welfare  
If we are to live in peace with each other

### **On Marx and Engels**

Communism has failed  
And yet it has never actually been tried  
We associate freedom  
With domination by monopolies  
And morality with corruption  
The whole world is oriented  
Around how to make a few people  
Even richer than they are now  
The only developments we see  
Are first applied to warfare  
Or they receive no funds  
We want to minimize our losses  
But if they are not Americans  
We don't care how many suffer  
Even those who are our allies  
Unless they are white  
We are only limited in  
The deployment of violence  
By our fear of retaliation  
But that is not great

In a world we dominate  
In every sense of the word  
We can afford to launch  
Preventative wars against countries  
Who are driven by morality  
Just because we have no values  
We think freedom is about money  
And the only sin is enjoying sex  
We think that people's behavior  
In their bedrooms  
Is more important than what  
Others do in boardrooms  
We think we are so different  
Than our greatest enemies  
But we really see life the same way  
They only hate us because we are rich  
And we only persecute them  
Because we use different vocabulary  
Giving money to those in need  
Is considered corruption  
And our only values  
Are about saving money  
Because their may be inefficiency  
In the government running welfare  
We get rid of it entirely  
There is less and less of a middle class  
And people only think they are  
Because they keep changing  
The meaning of the word  
We are continuing to get poorer  
More in spirit than money  
But we keep on voting  
For those who created our problems  
The word liberal is so vilified  
That the average American  
Thinks the poor should be punished  
We keep on taxing alcohol and tobacco  
With no restraint  
And no one speaks out for the poor  
But even our poor  
Are rich by the world's standards

But no one considers Africa  
Or anywhere there isn't oil  
We only treat those in the  
Middle East as people  
To the extent that we  
Are addicted to oil  
We know we are running out  
But it is considered un-American  
To use alternatives or to conserve  
American values consumerism  
Most our economy is based on spending  
The only thing our government  
Asks of us is to get ourselves into debt  
For things we don't need  
Or even care much about  
The ideas of Marx and Engels  
Are very much alive  
Their solution would never work  
But their statement of the problem  
Is as relevant today as when  
They first wrote it  
The difference is that the proletariat  
Is in the Third World  
But anyone who isn't white  
We really have no time for

### **Marxism is Defeated**

We have long since defeated  
What we call communism  
And yet we still think it alive  
And fear it alone  
Basically we equate any idea  
Of justice or peace  
As a ruse to a dictatorship  
The only people we trust  
Are the cowards that send  
Our children to war  
And spend their time in office  
Finding ways to make themselves richer  
With no thought as to the consequences



We think that war means peace  
And that evil is good  
We claim to be a Christian nation  
And yet our values  
Are whatever makes the most money  
We don't care if the corporations  
Control the government  
We call this democracy  
And claim that is what we fight for  
But the only people that win  
Are those supplying the weapons  
Our heads of state are capitalists  
And the only thing that motivates them  
Is the interests of those with  
The most money  
Because they never spend any of it  
But on charities that get them more money  
They are considered good and moral  
We think that every rich man  
Got his wealth by his work alone  
And the only way God blesses us  
Is by making us materially rich  
Christ would be a liberal  
And that makes Christians mad  
Because that means they are in the wrong  
They are too busy persecuting  
Those who look Middle Eastern to them  
Than to think about compassion or humility  
They see Christ as a conqueror  
Basically Rome is their God  
They only pray to God  
Because they think that will help them  
Win more wars  
Like a superstition they pick and choose  
Obscure references and equate them  
With invented meanings  
They are right on every detail  
Of every subtlety of cultural meaning  
And yet miss the main ideas

### 2.2.6 What If?

What if the Chinese didn't close down their fleet of ships after Zheng He's expeditions in the Ming Dynasty (about 1433 AD) ?

The Chinese had the largest wooden ships ever built and more than any European power at that time - and may have sailed as far as the New World, but they could not afford to anymore with other projects and wars related to conflicts with Mongolia, as they didn't sail in order to make money.

#### **Buddhists Missionaries**

Coming off ships  
Brimming with canons  
Loaded with gold  
And human slaves  
Along the Swahili coast  
We have a new religion  
Coming to Africa  
From the Chinese  
Buddhism is spreading  
Westward into the jungles  
Of central Africa  
Buddhism wasn't very popular  
At first until we were  
Allowed to keep  
Our old religions  
We said we were happy  
With our own gods  
And didn't need theirs  
But they told us  
If we didn't follow them  
We would come back again  
As a monkey  
Or end up this life  
In a crate headed for China  
To work the rice fields  
We were told how compassionate  
This guy called Buddha was

We asked why they didn't  
Feed the hungry locals  
They said we had to give up  
Everything and be a monk  
Most of us signed up  
As we had nothing  
Until we found out  
We had to beg for food  
Buddhism didn't sound like  
Much of an improvement  
Buddhism sounded like  
A religion for the wealthy  
The Chinese government  
Said they were just here  
For trade and to make us  
More civilized  
We thought that meant  
We would get rich  
But it seemed the longer  
The Chinese were here  
The poorer we became  
The continued to make  
Improvements in infrastructure  
So the Buddhists could  
Spread their religion  
We have trains all over Africa  
They get our natural resources  
On ships headed to China  
Faster that way  
We found out that most  
Of the officials weren't Buddhists  
And that Buddhism wasn't  
Really Chinese anyway  
We were told that Buddhists  
Were pacifists  
Although we saw many  
Chinese soldiers who were Buddhist

### **European Backwaters**

No one cares about Europe

Why would they?  
They are few in number  
And they don't have any money  
The Buddhists were active here  
But the Christians outlawed them  
As heretics and put them in prison  
They were not a European religion  
There are no empires in Europe  
And the countries are all really small  
The whole land mass  
Is smaller than China  
They don't have anything of worth  
To trade or to sell  
They don't make good slaves  
They look like ghosts  
They are the color of death  
And they are dressed in rags  
They don't have any navies of any size  
We could conquer them easily  
But they have nothing worth taking  
They believe in one God  
And most can't read  
They have no common language  
We still are not sure  
Whether to classify them  
As humans or not  
They have no culture like ours  
The few people who can read  
Spend most of their days praying  
They are obsessed with their classics  
Some stuff written down  
1, 000-2,000 years ago  
By a small empire called Rome  
And an even smaller one called Greece

What if we found another world that worshipped Jesus and was much more technologically advanced than us?

**Christian World**

People from another world  
Who look a lot like us  
And can speak our languages  
Appear in a museum  
Of ancient artifacts  
They tell us about their God  
And His name is Jesus Christ  
And they came to our world  
As missionaries because  
Their world is all Christian  
They have been traveling  
From world to world  
For hundreds of years  
To spread the Gospel  
Through inventions of  
Their own designs  
They live in a world  
That is a thousand years  
More advanced than ours  
They can also travel  
Through time and space  
They have never seen  
A world as corrupt  
And as evil as ours  
That hasn't destroyed itself  
They live communally  
And they have no crime  
Their society has lasted  
For thousands of years  
Without conflicts  
They want to help us  
But they say the problem  
Is not that we haven't  
Advanced in technology enough  
But that we need to  
Improve ourselves morally  
They have no environmental problems  
And have never had any in their history  
They treat animals as equals

And eat entirely vegetarian  
They have hundreds of billions of people  
On their world  
And they are self-sufficient energy wise  
Even though they their technology  
Uses a lot of energy  
Because they limit their use

What if Jesus came today?

### **Contemporary Jesus**

If Jesus came today  
He would be homeless  
And hang out with  
Strippers and escorts  
He would be at the clubs  
And at the political rallies  
With anarchists and goths  
He would be the son  
Of a computer programmer  
Who worked in a small business  
Based on open source  
His mother would be  
An artist or designer  
He would listen to reggae  
And be vegetarian  
He would live in a  
Community house  
With all possessions  
Held in common  
He would hand out flyers  
For environmental causes  
He would hang out  
At poetry readings  
And at Internet cafes  
He would be a member  
Of His local  
Linux Users Group  
And would use only  
Open Source software

He would have served in Iraq  
And in the Peace Corps  
He would have  
Started a new religion  
And criticized the political elite  
He would start a reform  
Of the religious wrong  
He would be a liberal  
And speak out against  
The conservative powers  
People would follow Him  
But not be able to explain why  
The news would not film Him  
And people would  
Make fun of His followers  
Pastors would say that  
He was a heretic  
They would ban Him  
From church on Sunday  
And the police would  
Call Him an agitator  
Bush would call Him  
A terrorist leader  
And He would be  
Imprisoned without trial  
He would be interrogated  
And released to a mental hospital  
He would form His own band  
And He would have a blog  
Where He would write poetry  
With millions of monthly visitors

What if stuffed toys ran the world?

### **Toy Society**

Children are prized above all  
They are the friends  
Of the powerful elite  
The president's dump truck  
Is pushed by a toddler

And the famous actors  
Sign the diapers of their fans  
The toy entrepreneurs  
Load up the toy boxes  
In their factories  
And the children  
Drive around the boxes  
In battery operated  
And joystick controlled  
All terrain vehicles  
The children go to play  
At the toy research centers  
To see what toys  
Are the most popular  
And for quality control  
They are played with  
Under supervision  
Of the toy managers  
To make sure they  
Are safe for play  
Day care for the toys  
Is provided by toddlers  
And teams of seamstresses  
Are trained to be  
The top surgeons  
Of the toy leaders  
Each toy is treasured  
For its entire life  
The toy gets a new  
Assigned kid to look after  
When the previous kid  
Begins to grow up  
No toys are ever given  
To animals to martyr  
There is always  
A loving home  
For every toy  
They will always be warm  
And kept clean and dry  
There are always activities  
To keep the toys busy



They have a great Christmas party  
Where they meet new kids  
And a holiday parade  
Where all the toy stars  
Are dressed up and honored  
There are award ceremonies  
For the kid's favorite  
Toys of the year  
When the kids grow up  
They are used as heaters

What if farm animals ran the world?

### **Farm Society**

The cows roam free  
All over the midwest  
Milk, cheese, and ice cream  
Are free for every child  
No animals are in prison  
And they all have  
Their own barns  
With heated blankets  
And human employees  
To clean away the cow pies  
Half the nation's wealth  
Is in grain, crackers, and alfalfa  
The currency is sugar  
And no one eats meat  
The pigs are the police  
And everyone caught  
Eating an animal's flesh  
Is sent across the border  
The sheep clear the  
Wildflowers and weeds  
So the human workers  
Can plant the corn and wheat  
For their cow leaders  
All the extra paper  
From all the books  
Not recorded in farm animal

Languages are recycled  
With the help of the goats  
There is plenty of power  
To run the mills  
From all the cow pies  
Cows are assigned  
To each residential block  
To keep the grass cut  
There is no more  
Need for cars  
Nothing too small  
To carry a cow  
Is licensed to drive  
There are new uses  
For all the SUVs  
They are all powered  
By sugar cane  
Left over from cow deserts

## **2.3 Emotional Breakthroughs**

### **2.3.1 Son of Strength**

I have developed the idea of raising the bar, once I reach the level that was once my goal, for a higher goal and then on and on until I die. I think I reached rock bottom recently. I have developed the ability to understand philosophy despite having Schizophrenia and with it the near impossibility of understanding abstract thought.

Based on this insight, I surmised that I could do the same thing with my physical body. I would strengthen my will to the point that I could force my body to do what it couldn't physically much as Special Forces do. The problem is that in the Special Forces, when the training is done, that at some point the service member gets to rest. They don't tire out the service members to the point that they have no energy, before they drop them onto classified missions.

So for me to assume that I could will myself into mastering my body is a flawed assertion at best. But that

was very arrogant to assume that I could reach that level of intensity, without having even attempting that kind of training. Anyway, when I came back from my run, which I was able to push myself past more pain than I was able to do in any of my cross country running, I tasted blood in my lungs and at the point when I got back to my retirement center, one of the managers thought I was having a heart attack.

This showed me that I need to slow down and be aware that although I can dream of saving the world, I do not have the energy to.

In addition to never being able to feel fully rested no matter how much sleep I have had, I can't push past it with greater mental strength, as I don't even have the control over my mind as a normal person does.

What the Apostle Paul said in Romans is at the heart of (Christian) Existentialism. We cannot do what we want to. We are not strong enough mentally to reach our goals. We must leave saving the world to God and just help in small ways or else we will not survive long enough to see the fruits of our efforts.

I have finally realized that having Schizophrenia is not just a mental illness; it is a physical one as well. If your medicine is being effective on giving you some control of your thoughts, then you will have no energy to do anything.

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

I have recently arrived at the conclusion that the increased suffering of the world recently is the direct fault of Christians not following what God has called them to do, and in response to the fact and because I am in the wealthiest nation on the earth and because of my gifts of intelligence and creativity that I should be able to make a measurable dent in the amount of suffering that the sen-

tient beings of the earth must feel. But the problem is I don't have the strength to have the reach that I believe I should have.

Many of the problems of the world, if they are to be solved by people, need more resources than I have been given. I will just have to accept that there is some reason that God is allowing this to happen by conscious choice alone.

I have had to struggle with whether to say I believe that God raised Jesus from the dead and that he was both man and God or that that is a fact. I have recently come to understand that belief is stronger than facts. Similarly to how I said when we had to mark opinion as false and fact as true that opinions could be truths but facts are not consequential enough to be truths. So it shows more certainty to say that I believe in Heaven and Hell than to say flatly that there is a Heaven and Hell and that is the truth whether you agree with it or not you will go to one, because of course its true to the limits of my knowledge which is all I can guarantee by saying it is the truth, but to say I believe something to be true means that I haven't just proved it intellectually, but it is so true that I risk eternity on it.

### **2.3.2 Heaven and Earth**

There is a rhythm that exists  
Deep inside your spirit  
When all you hear is breathing  
And your mind is all alone  
Thoughts take flight  
And you see nothing  
Returning the power to Heaven  
And the ten thousand things  
Follow your mind  
Liberation is a subtlety  
And freedom comes from control  
The hierarchy reflects nature  
And the order is transparent  
Within an instant  
Everything fades away

The mind is ruler  
And the body follows  
When the mind is empty  
The body is fully alert  
With each breath  
Heaven takes more territory  
And the Earth longs  
For heaven's leadership  
A unity exists  
When Heaven is patriarch  
And his rule is sage-like  
And shows perspective  
The Way leads to your heart  
And is illuminated by your breath  
Heaven leads the Way  
And each member settles in  
For a long peace  
And a stable rule  
The Way is narrow  
When your mind is a casualty of war  
It broadens  
As Heaven is seated on your throne

### **2.3.3 The Breakthrough**

#### **History**

In Elementary School, I was so bored, as the classes were so stupefied and repetitious, that I daydreamed most of the time. Middle School was a dark time for me, as I had a very painful time getting rid of some huge warts. I also struggled with people kicking and hitting me, especially on the bus and in shop class.

High school was a renaissance for me, as I had always looked forward, to being in clubs. By my junior year, I was involved in Cheerleading, Boy Scouts, Summer Camp Counselor, Explorer Scouts, Catering, French Club, Model United Nations, Speech Team, a Political Club I started, a multimedia CD-ROM project with Sony, Future Business Leaders of America, a student journal, and a number of other ones I cannot remember. Other years I did Cross

Country and Long Distance Track, instead of Cheerleading. I put as much work into each of these, as I was able to, with the most time spent on: the Political Club I started, Cheerleading, Speech Team, and Boy Scouts.

At the end of my junior year, I signed up for the military, under the delayed entry program, so that I shipped, off for Basic Training a month, after I graduated from High School. I spent the whole year getting into shape for the Army and reduced my load of activities down to the seven I enjoyed most. Some of the reasons for joining the military were: serving my country, money for college, getting a break from school, and getting experiences for my resume. The military was harder than anything I had done before and I proved that anyone could do it, if they put in as much effort, as I did.

When I left the military, due to mental illness, I went into school right away, but I began writing some poetry, about a year through, and was inspired by learning about Postmodernism in an English Writing class, Chinese philosophy, in my year long Chinese literature course, and Existentialism and Ecofeminism in some summer courses. I started out with a Business major, but later switched to Journalism, as I hated business so much and was not very good at it. I was always good at writing and so Journalism was a much better match.

Then on December 11th 1999, I was voluntarily admitted to the psychiatric ward of the local private hospital. I did not write for several months afterwards because I couldn't. I didn't know if I could write or understand philosophy again, but I continued to pursue it for a number of months and when I switched to a newer medicine I began to be able to write well again and understand philosophy.

## **Background**

I have studied philosophy, religion, and literature, both European and Asian for 9 years, to help give myself a multicultural understanding of the Bible. I believe that theological traditions, in American culture, have kept us, from understanding what the Bible is really about. What

is really misunderstood is who the Holy Spirit is and how God's Spirit works, in the world, and in our hearts.

The passages, that deal with the Holy Spirit, are some of the most cited and the most unread of the Bible. The Holy Spirit spoke through David, in the Psalms, and through God's prophets, as well as in Paul's letters. I have developed a philosophy that combines Philosophical Taoism and Christian Existentialism, to help people understand God in a new way that originally comes from Scripture itself. This philosophy is meant to help seekers understand biblically based Christianity better and this also serves as an inspiration for Christianity, starting several hundred years from now.

But, I have pursued this as much, as I have the ability to and I will need to rely on God, to keep this around as long as it is His will to do so. For most people, their problem is ignoring what God is telling them, but my problem is that I take too much of it on myself. I have to realize, that God can do any of the work, that needs to be done that I cannot complete. This is not an excuse, to neglect God's voice, and fail to do the work He has prepared for us, but there is a balance in God's expectations and I have fallen on the side, of being a workaholic.

And the search for rest and my struggle with doing too much is an important theme in the philosophy. My understanding of Chinese philosophy is based on my upbringing as a Confucian scholar, which in western terms would be considered a workaholic. Ironically, Existentialism and Taoism have a lot to do with rest and enjoyment of life, but the paradox is that the father of Existentialism, Kierkegaard, worked himself to death.

I have recently had the opportunity to see a number of contemporary Chinese philosophy influenced works of art, in a museum near where I live, and the common theme is the magnitude of work and the precision involved in creating it. When I compare European art, to Asian art, I laugh, because it is so simplistic. But I have also seen the freedom in western art especially the Impressionists and in the work of Picasso.

I have constantly been fighting, to save the world, since my departure from the military, but I have finally

realized, that it is ok to rest and that my work is finished.

### Questions

It is commonly thought, that if you believe in the Bible, it answers all your questions, so you don't have to think. You often hear people, who call themselves Christians, say they believe in all these absolutes and that they have life all figured out. This is totally wrong. While the Bible does give assurance of salvation, provided you repent of your sins and believe in Jesus' resurrection, there is not much else the Bible gives specific answers to.

Once you get past a couple of basic theological ideas about God, man, and their relationship, the more you look through the Bible, the more you will be surprised, at the implications of scripture. Did you know that Scripture never says, that we can't travel through time or different dimensions? Did you know that the Scriptures describe something, that sounds a lot like a UFO? Did you know that the Bible doesn't even refer to those, who can be saved, as human beings and that the Bible never says, that there aren't aliens? In fact, the more bizarre Science gets, the more the Bible lines up, with these new theories.

It is commonly thought, that only atheists are skeptics and that uncertainty is not a Biblical theme. The truth is that there are very few absolutes, in the Bible. The Bible is also very Asian, in its content. Most of the Bible is poetry and one of the main unifying themes, of the Bible, is suffering. The Bible speaks against the occult and even Greek philosophy, but not Eastern Philosophy or Christian mysticism.

Christians, who are honest, have to admit, that they constantly struggle with sins, doubts about promises in the Bible and various psychological issues, like addictions and depression. The Bible doesn't say, that all suffering comes from sin. In fact, King David suffered from depression and paranoia and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. Although the Bible helps us recognize, that there is a spiritual component to most issues, it leaves open the idea, that we can have psychological conditions, as well as physical ailments, that aren't necessarily the result of sin.



## **The Letter**

I had a great break through last night.

I realized that I constantly looked for ways to improve my philosophy and my website in my mind and I have come, to the conclusion, that there is nothing more I can do, with the philosophy. I have just started telling myself, that I do not need to solve all the world's problems, by myself.

I have to wait on God, to solve the world's problems, in His time. I have gone as far as I can, in this direction. I have realized, that God doesn't require us to do some gigantic special project, and we are only responsible, for ourselves.

Just because other people have no vision and are not bright enough, to think of anything other than sports, does not mean what I have done is of no value. There is no reason why most people need to understand what I have done. I don't need to constantly improve myself.

It is OK, to just enjoy life. If people don't share my interests or values, maybe it is their problem and not mine. People being rude to me, or not liking me is not always my problem. I don't always need to be the one to change.

I do not need to be able to answer everyone's problems, that keep them from salvation. I am only responsible, for myself, and keeping the right attitude, before God.

## **More Thoughts**

I don't have to always be learning new things. I don't always have to do everything, for a reason. I don't always have to make ten backups, of everything I create. I don't have to publish everything I do. I don't have to worry about all the possible bad things people could use, what I have created, to do.

I don't have to constantly get more talented, at everything. I don't have to master every discipline. I don't have to complete everything, as soon as I think of it. If something is that important, it will come back to me later.

### **In Verse**

My mind runs endlessly  
At the speed of thought  
There are no breaks  
To watch TV  
There is no excuse  
To stop working  
When you believe  
You can save the world  
How can you end  
Your essential project  
When you believe  
Everyday is your last  
You push harder  
And you never stop  
When your expectations  
Are endless  
And always rising  
You will never finish  
You will never be satisfied  
Until you are at the end  
Of what you can handle  
I stopped yesterday  
I cannot continue  
I need to wait  
On God to save us  
Continued improvement  
Is not necessary  
I am not always wrong  
Its not always my fault  
When someone doesn't like me  
When someone can't relate  
I am not responsible  
For anyone but myself

## **2.4 Nature of God**

Breakthroughs in my understanding of the nature of God.

### 2.4.1 Jesus Poetry

#### The One

The words jump out at you  
They dance on the page  
A steady light to pierce through the mist and  
    shadows  
A light that gravity cannot bend  
A power that surpasses that of the undead  
Like a quark compared to a strand of DNA  
A book of the highest magic  
A chill like that of a winter storm  
As soothing as a glass of tea for a sore throat  
A written record that proves history as we know  
    it is a lie  
Balrogs and Orcs ambush us at every turn  
The road goes ever on and on  
He stands taller than an Elven King  
With strength greater than that of a ring  
The battle is fought even in the Shire  
Little Hobbits pass by without notice  
The evil within is greater than that of the Dark  
    Lord  
We must struggle each year with the pain of  
    our youth  
Stepping out on the first day of the Fellowship  
Knowing terror lurks under every darkened  
    forest  
But that One older than the forest is singing  
    merrily  
And in the havens the Immortals sing songs  
    higher than we can sing

We are inseparable with the One even when at  
    the farthest reaches of the universe  
Our brothers and sisters move in concert with  
    our every twitch  
The words spoken by the Hebrew prophets  
    thousands of years ago  
Are a postmodern deconstruction of our present  
    situation

What broke the symmetry of the emptiness?  
Is it the same force that has slowed down the  
explosion of new life forms?  
That disharmony increases with every day  
That we fly apart faster every second

### **The Majestic Down to Earth**

A comet down to a meteor pebble  
A red giant star to a black hole  
The One now just a grain of sand in a mile  
long stretch of beach  
The One now a snowflake in a winter snow-  
storm  
How much greater was His descent to earth?  
With the authority to bend the laws of physics  
and chemistry  
With the ability to create life out of nothing  
The eternal now confines Himself to a human  
life span  
That which all creation cannot contain is born  
a helpless child  
His head turned down in respect for others  
His eyes wide so that He does not harm any-  
thing  
His feet dirty because He does not think of  
himself  
His hands calloused from His devotion to his  
family business in His youth  
His understanding is brilliant as diamonds  
His words are as clear as glass  
His insight is like polished bronze  
He delicacy in speech is like that of a potter  
We are weighed down with worry about how  
those who hate us will retaliate  
The government is turning on those who are  
trying to save us  
Our time is spent working for multinational  
corporations dreams  
Our investments are lost because they were  
based on deceitful schemes

His message is for our time  
Humility and compassion are the keys to restoring our lives

### **Jesus**

Is the universe in constant struggle  
Between good and evil?  
Does not nature possess more order?  
Do we not have breaks between calamities?  
Do basic structures break down  
Most of the time or infrequently?  
Both merciful and just  
All-powerful and humble  
All-wise yet foolish by our standards  
A joke more serious than a tragedy  
Is He both opposites at once  
Or merely a mixture of equal parts  
He is everything  
He is my whole world  
Yet He is not contained by His creation  
Is He merely first order infinity?  
Greater than someone could write down  
Powers of infinity in an infinite time period  
If He were just a Greek god  
Or the heavenly ruler of China  
He would not even bow Himself down  
To visit earth  
But He is infinitely greater than everything He  
could create in all of eternity  
Stretching in an infinite number of dimensions  
if He never ceased  
God does not struggle against evil  
He beat all the powers of evil that ever will be  
or have been  
With just a sentence  
God is God enough to live as a man  
Secure enough in His holiness to save all of  
mankind in a single night  
Not afraid to descend into the pit of Hell  
And powerful enough to rebuke the Devil him-

self, in His own name  
When we look to God  
To shuffle blame to Someone we don't think  
will respond  
We have to calm ourselves and be rational  
God is not a man and does not make mistakes  
Our problems are caused by our own bad choices  
And the bad choices of others  
But He already has answered our prayer  
He has shortened the time of the tribulation  
And as we pray more and more  
It comes nearer and nearer  
So we won't have it hanging over our grand  
children's heads

### **2.4.2 Self Poetry**

#### **With one material, many souls**

What is our true self?  
What is our true identity?  
Are we one with God  
Is God in us or is He our true identity?  
Is the individual soul an illusion?  
Do we only exist as One?  
Truly there is something  
That unites the universe  
Not only is there something  
That unites body and mind  
But also the same thing  
Is the foundation of everything  
And there is something else  
The same moral purpose in everything  
But we also have a soul that exists  
And although it may be made of the same  
As that of matter and energy and of other souls  
The composition is unique  
In each one of us  
Just as each snowflake is made of the same  
molecule  
There are ten thousand different kinds

Each one is an individual creation  
With its own shape, size, and texture  
So does our soul have a unique identity  
And we have our own special characteristics  
So we can share a common God  
And we can empathize with each other  
We can understand what it is to be human  
And have the same desire to know our Creator  
But we each have our own will  
And we are directed by a different facet  
Of the same moral purpose  
To the extent that we have cultivated it  
To the extent that we desire to know God

### **Directions**

We are all moving in different directions  
But our makeup is aligned at the same slope  
We can move a mountain  
If we have the faith of a mustard seed  
If we seek God with all our heart  
We can have eternal life  
With even the effort of our own will  
We can effect great change  
As long as we are in sync  
With the Greater Moral Purpose  
As long as we act  
In concert with God's will  
We share the same substance  
But we each have a different mind  
A different will and heart  
We can share in general moral purpose  
But each is going toward a different direction  
It is where these lines of purpose intersect  
That we are linked in a bigger task  
Like each cell we live and die in our own tim-  
ing  
We have our own body and our own director  
As an organ we are working towards a larger  
purpose  
And in this way we can act as one

Many wills, with the same thing in their minds  
and on their hearts  
With one Leader  
We follow with a mind that thinks its own thoughts  
Just because we are not the same spirit  
Does not mean we cannot work as one in the  
Spirit of God  
We do not need to be God  
To know that we are interlinked in relation-  
ships  
And connected in Greater Purpose

### **Holy Spirit**

These contours upon which we travel  
Are the straightest path to the nearest soul  
We can know we are in agreement  
And work as with one body  
Because we understand  
We are each separate members  
That have wills working together  
While we keep our hearts and minds focused  
But what is this road upon  
Which the mind is linked to its vessel  
How does the distinct mind of one being  
Understand what the mind of the other is do-  
ing  
Without asking and without explanation  
Without external signal of any kind?  
It is like the cool current of wind  
In the penetrating heat of our yellow sun  
It is a subtlety that unites our thinking  
And brings us together for greater purpose  
Donning the protective mask  
In one fluid motion  
Or knowing what line of code is wrong  
Just by seeing how the web page looks  
There is another level  
In which we understand  
Another way in which things happen  
Than the official regulations



It is how someone writes without an outline  
And still puts together a coherent argument  
It is in a way that cannot be pinned down  
It has no universal name  
In the Bible we know it  
As the Holy Spirit  
Or God in the world  
Who brings together His flock

### **2.4.3 Heavenly Father Poetry**

#### **The Perfect Programmer**

God is the perfect programmer  
We are all his programs  
I am a flawed program  
How can this be?  
My source code was perfect  
In every respect  
But I let others add code  
I started out stable and efficient  
I was useful to my Creator  
But the other code was sloppy  
And my executable became corrupted  
I kept on throwing up error messages  
I blamed the kernel and other software  
Everyone was wrong but me  
My file formats were universally compatible  
But I decided not to publish my new source  
code  
Or even document my APIs  
I would only release a software development kit  
If people purchased a service plan  
I used other peoples programs  
I downloaded illegally off the Internet  
I began to see nothing wrong  
With being infested with viruses  
I was getting more bloated by the day  
And my features grew so great in number  
That I became too complex to compile without  
errors

I began to seek other business models  
I released some source code but not all  
No one will develop me anymore  
I rely on my my public relations staff  
To buy my way into your computer  
I claim no responsibility for damage  
I would be recalled  
But people don't expect computers to work

### **Praise and Criticism**

I have a memory problem  
And a vision problem  
My eyes are fine  
And my mind works great  
But I have huge blind spots  
I constantly pray for protection  
And I have a great memory  
For how people have hurt me  
But it is only when I stop and rest  
That I remember to give thanks  
For all God has protected me from  
My greatest problem is fear  
And I have struggled with chronic  
Physical and mental suffering  
And my life has not been easy  
For a middle class American's standard  
But what I was saved from  
Is greater than I could have imagined  
I lost my mind due to my service in the Army  
But I still have all my limbs and organs intact  
I was able to get out of the military  
When my mental illness interfered with my job  
And my peace of mind  
I had allergic pink eye for 3-1/2 years  
But it ended with my first anti-psychotic medicine  
When we watch the news  
It is mostly negative  
And people are quick to point out problems  
But rarely offer solutions  
It is easy to criticize others actions

When they do not act heroic  
But how do we know what we will due  
When we are in a crisis

### **Praise God for Everything**

Praise God for everything good  
We know of or have experienced  
Praise God for everything good  
We have yet to or may never discover  
Praise God for everything good  
We have labeled as a coincidence  
Praise God for what we have learned  
Jesus is the best teacher  
Praise God for what we have learned  
Sins to avoid and the way to salvation  
Praise God for when we have peace  
Spiritual as well as physical  
Praise God for when we have plenty  
God provides for His creation  
Praise God for when we have stability  
In our jobs and in the universe  
Praise God for His forgiveness  
For when we treat each other bad  
Praise God for healing us  
From bad decisions and from injuries  
Praise God for everlasting life  
If we only submit to God  
Praise God for His suffering  
For our bad choices  
Praise God for our freedom  
We can choose good or bad  
Praise God for being who He is  
Supreme in character, wisdom, and power  
Praise God for loving us  
Even when we don't return His love

### **Awesome God**

God is not your little sister  
Who you need to protect

God is not in debt  
You don't need to finance Him  
God does not need an advocate  
He is God whether He is worshiped or not  
God is not pressed for time  
He has plenty of time for you  
You do not need to argue God's case  
Creation speaks out His name  
God doesn't need you to fulfill his plans  
God is in control of history  
If you can travel back and forth in time  
God is already there and everywhere else  
If we travel to another planet  
God is just as much in control  
If we have a multi verse and parallel realities  
It is there because God created it  
God is not limited by having poor followers  
God is all powerful in and of Himself  
God doesn't just watch you in church  
God sees all  
God doesn't like Christians better than unbelievers  
God loves us because He chooses to  
God will not do evil  
This does not mean His power is limited in any way  
God does not play favorites  
You don't get points for good deeds  
God will judge everyone  
And none of us will pass without Christ  
God does not struggle to defeat evil  
He destroys it in His timing and with His methods  
God doesn't care what we think is immoral  
He invented morality  
God is not fooled like people are  
God knows your heart

### **Family Appreciation**

Thanks God for my family

Thank God for my mom  
Whose encouragement uplifts  
And who continually advocates for me  
Thanks God for my dad  
Whose advice has saved me from harm  
His prayers give me hope  
Thank God for my sister  
Who listens carefully to what I say  
Whose visits cheer me up  
Thank God for my Uncle Clive  
Who faithfully looks through my work  
Whose careful words brighten my day  
Thanks God for my stuffed cows  
Who are always near by  
Whose humor and thoughts keep my company  
Thank God for giving my a family  
That is always near in spirit  
And who put my needs ahead of theirs  
Who are anxious to hear what I have learned  
And who consider what I say  
With open minds and careful consideration  
Who care enough to consider my feelings  
And adjust their words and tone  
Who I can consider colleagues  
And who understand what I am doing  
Better than anyone else  
Thanks for your inspiration  
And your love

### **Tolerance**

Is is better that we not offend  
The pride of those doomed to eternal death  
Or better that more have eternal life?  
Is the preservation of one more year of life  
Of significance when we count in eternity?  
Is it so important that we have personal transportation  
That we sacrifice our young men's lives?  
Do we seek to be so tolerant of the wealthy  
That we let the poor suffer violence?

Are we so addicted to popular culture  
That we no longer care what is right and wrong?  
Are we so far devolved morally  
That we throw away our future?  
Because some people used Christ's named for  
evil  
Does that mean that there is no truth in the  
Bible?  
Why do we give to charity  
When we vote against those in need?  
Why speak out for what is wrong  
When we don't even try to live morally?  
Do we need to rewrite history  
To prove what we are doing is right?  
Isn't it a bad sign that we have no faith?  
There is more to the world than white America  
God values those in the Asia and Africa  
Even if we won't even help feed them  
When the rest of the world hates you  
You might think you did something wrong  
When you read the Bible and get offended  
Do you think you are you better than God?  
Who are we to judge the world  
From our Postmodern point of view?  
Atheism is a blip in world history  
And the future is more Christian than pagan  
And there are more Muslims than atheists  
Do we only tolerate those with big lobbies?  
Do we only look after those who can speak for  
themselves?  
When we choose to give some rights and not  
others  
What is the basis for this decision?  
Why do we put women and children  
Above the lives of our soldiers?  
Why do we disregard the lives of animals  
When our society is built on their labor?  
There is more to life than American football  
And there is more going on in the world  
Outside Hollywood and Wall Street

**God, Help!**

We look around us  
And we hear rumors  
All point to our destruction  
Our imminent demise  
Our fresh water is infected  
Garbage drifts in the sea  
Our forests are destroyed  
Daily more are burned down  
Our food make us sick  
And we eat ourselves to death  
We generate dangerous waste  
For ten thousand years  
Deadly incurable diseases  
Spread like wildfire  
Our rich steal from the poor  
And conduct scams without penalty  
Our president is a dictator  
He starts wars out of revenge  
Our politicians don't care about us  
They follow the largest sum of money  
Our religious leaders  
Preach hate and prejudice  
The people don't seem to care  
As long as they can see the football game  
And there is plenty of beer  
They will sell their souls  
To not have to get up off the couch  
God, we repent of our sin  
Please have mercy on us  
We take full responsibility  
And are willing to pay the penalties  
Please forget our sin  
And be our God  
And we will be Your servants  
We will put the poor and the rejected  
Above our own desires  
We will honor You  
With our actions and not just our words

## **Walking Forward**

With back straight  
And eyes level  
A relaxed walk  
With long strides  
Brilliant blue sky  
And radiant sun  
Long rows of books  
Quick glances  
And moving on  
With each turn  
And a rapid survey  
Passing by numerous sections  
Already absorbed  
With each step  
I pass walls of books  
And with each shelf  
Years of study  
I am beginning to feel  
More relaxed  
And sure of my ideas  
There is a subtlety  
That exists in the mind  
And a slight change in pace  
That signals growth  
And increasing certitude  
The times of clarity  
Multiply in number  
I still don't have plans  
For tomorrow  
But there is a stillness  
And a gentle attitude  
Overflowing from my heart  
And my head is a little lighter  
On my shoulders  
The weight is slowly receding  
And I get glimpses of peace  
And times of conviction  
That experience exponential growth  
And continued enthusiasm



**Morning Sunshine**

In the cool of the day  
Darkness fades gently  
And the sun rises confidently  
Over the distant horizon  
At what point does it become day?  
Where exactly is the horizon?  
I learn sometimes in leaps  
Sometimes at a slow walk  
God continues to rise in my heart  
I do not know when I will fade  
But I know God will continue  
To outshine the darkness of my soul  
We bow to God's brilliance  
And are blinded by His Presence  
We are dark and low  
Not worthy to be the dirt  
On which He treads  
We live most our life in the shadows  
It is hard to watch the sun  
We hide from the intense light  
But are afraid when it leaves  
We scatter far and wide  
To our own devices  
When night falls  
But we need to return  
To the radiance of our Lord  
Before we start our day  
Under the direct light of the sun

**2.4.4 Son of God Poetry****The Missionaries**

God does not love America  
More than any other country  
God does not condone wars  
Over natural resources  
God is not Republican  
He does not support the Religious "Right"  
Bush is not following the Bible

America was never a Christian nation  
The Bible does not promote capitalism  
Christians should speak out against corporations  
TV evangelists are seldom  
Preaching from the Bible correctly  
The Bible is incompatible with Science  
The way it is taught in schools  
The Bible is more Scientifically sound  
Than the theory of evolution  
God is not in danger of being outdated  
America is regressing  
God is worshiped in the Third World  
Only Europe has no faith  
Religion is not a competition  
The Bible has no equal  
We don't need to denigrate others  
To support our beliefs  
God is not White  
God loves all races  
God is not a God of hate  
God loves all people  
No matter what they have done  
And no matter who they are

### **God Speaks**

God speaks all languages  
He speaks to us in our language  
Arabic and Chinese  
Spanish and Pali  
Hebrew and Russian  
Croatian and Pigeon  
Farsi and French  
There is a word for Christ  
In every language  
There is a word for suffering  
There is a word for submission  
There is a word for sacrifice  
There is a word for humanity  
There is a word for hope

There is a word for joy  
There is a word for peace  
There is a word for life  
There is a word for eternal  
There is a word for forgiven  
There is a word for repentance  
There is a word for belief  
There is a word for sin  
There is a word for good  
There is a word for heaven  
There is a word for love  
There is a word for victory  
There is a word for change  
There is a word for compassion  
There is a word for service

### **Religion Means Education**

The Bible is not just words  
For memorization and quotation  
It is not a means to control  
Or a way to win arguments  
The Bible is not a set of rules  
To conform to  
The Bible is not a goal to achieve  
Or a means to a higher consciousness  
Christians do not ascend  
And God is not trying  
To advance us technologically  
God does not make you rich  
If you are devout  
God is not a reason for bad behavior  
Or an excuse to give up  
God does not want us  
To be workaholics  
The Bible is a weapon  
Against our own selfishness  
And our pride and stubbornness  
But we must plunge the sword  
Into ourselves  
God wants us to learn

He wants us to grow  
Not to be wealthy or more advanced  
But to be moral and healthy  
We do not grow by secret knowledge  
Or by special powers  
We learn who God is  
And learn how to submit to Him  
We learn the source of our problems  
Is our own poor choices  
And we get deliverance from them  
To the extent that we give God control  
Of our minds, our hearts, and our souls

### **Campus Community**

Under the cover  
Of strong oak branches  
And on the carpet of  
Carefully manicured grass  
The entire campus  
Is overflowing with deep green  
And on these memorial benches  
Of weathered cedar and black iron  
I watch with fading eyelids  
As people pass the Frisbee by  
Which dogs catch in mid air  
And students cover the lawn  
Leading up to the ornate marble library  
Ivy is digesting the brick halls  
And the sounds of construction  
Permeates the adjacent buildings  
All the vertical wood surfaces  
Are covered in propaganda  
A gray bearded man  
Plays the guitar  
And sings songs  
Only fully understood by him  
Softly a block away  
What a community  
What an idyllic atmosphere  
I like to think that

Maybe some are believers

### **Open Market**

You can smell the incense a mile away  
And you can see everyone's toes  
It is Saturday again downtown  
The booths are all assembled  
And manned with merchants  
There are pamphlets and stickers  
Posters and pens  
All carrying the logo  
Of a charity or small business  
This is how capitalism was envisioned  
This is a diverse gathering  
Fresh picked produce  
And organic baked goods  
Hemp clothing and more  
Everything is produced locally  
Or a product of fair trade  
There is silver jewelry galore  
And every kind of clothing tie dyed  
The local charities are out in  
Solid numbers and well stocked  
With sign up sheets  
And passionate volunteers  
There are dozens of groups  
Fighting to save the forests  
And dozens of groups  
For equality and justice  
Globally and locally  
There is continual music  
And the aisles are crowded  
The lines slowly shift forward  
And the restrooms are portable  
A Christian group lurks in the distance  
If you squint real hard

### **Epic Hero**

Christ is the greatest epic hero

The most powerful and the strongest  
But His goal was not war  
And He did not kill  
His message was second  
To His example  
And greatest of all  
Was His humility joined  
With His divinity  
Conquering the spirit world  
Or starting an empire  
Was not His way  
He conquered the greatest enemy  
The most entrenched traitor  
Our heart and our minds  
And our sins and bad attitudes  
He healed and He prophesied  
He was merciful and had authority  
He was a descendant of the Jewish people  
And He was the One who created all  
Because of my Hero, Jesus  
I have eternal life  
He did the hardest thing anyone has done  
To make it as easy as possible for me  
I do not have the energy to do yoga  
Or the leadership to start an ashram  
I don't have the discipline to pray 5 times a day  
Or the money to journey to Mecca  
Christ has provided the only way  
For my salvation  
And He has invited everyone to join  
And the cost is free as in freedom

### **Ancestor**

Born as a descendant  
Of the Scottish monarchy  
And with many castles to  
Our family name  
If we could prove it  
Starting out to free Scotland  
From the brutal English

I later gave up  
The quest for nationalism  
Not only did the Stewards  
Inherit the throne of England  
But I have a greater legacy  
Which I have given up on  
The previous ancestry for  
I am born again  
And grafted into  
The lineage of Israel  
And am part of the inheritance  
Of the Son Of God  
The second Adam  
Christ, the Creator of All  
Has chosen me  
Before the beginning of time  
To be one of His children  
And any who will believe  
Are all God's chosen people  
Whether Asian or European  
African or North American  
Latin American or Australian

### **Center of Gravity**

Night has fallen on Europe  
And it is late afternoon in America  
But the sun is just rising in Africa  
And it is still morning in Latin America  
And it is a few hours before dawn in Asia  
Christ is universally understood  
And is available to all believers  
In Europe and North America  
The white man is diminishing in numbers  
And his power does not extend  
Beyond his own continent  
Even at home, foreigners from the south  
Are overwhelming the West  
But Christ loves the South  
Just as much as the North  
But the white man has lost his religion

And those from Africa and Asia  
Are embracing and comprehending God  
In ways that the West never could  
Christ is not just a moral teacher  
He is a living God  
Christ loves the poor  
And identifies with the losers of war  
The spiritual world is real  
Even more than Science could theorize  
Christ is not an abstract concept  
But a real force in everyday life  
God is not just our Creator  
He is our Ancestor  
He wants to adopt us  
To be a part of His lineage  
And to share His inheritance  
God shapes history  
In ways we could never imagine  
And God has a special plan  
For those in the Africa and Asia  
For the persecuted and the fatherless  
From those rich in Spirit

### **Crossroads**

We are at a turning point  
As believers worldwide  
We have passed on the torch  
To our friends in the South  
What does God have planned  
For those who understand Christ better?  
What more will God reveal  
In the 21st century?  
There is no need  
To spread the Gospel southward  
We need missionaries in the North  
There is nothing we can teach the South  
Now we need to learn from them  
Africa is becoming the leader  
The younger child that God loves  
And we have become wealthy



We have given up our inheritance  
For things of this world  
We can no longer see the truth  
Of God's divine intervention  
And the miracles available  
For those who truly believe  
We look down on the humble  
And reject those with problems  
We blame the sick  
The physically and mentally weak  
For our declining power in the world  
We don't realize  
Our lack of character  
And are unable to comprehend  
What sacrifice means  
We are an empire on decline  
Will those in the South pray for us?



## **Chapter 3**

# **Book of Belief**

by Ben Huot

## **3.1 The Purpose of Philosophy**

### **3.1.1 General Ideas**

### **3.1.2 Psychology in Philosophy**

**D**o you keep on trying to solve the symptoms of your problems, and are never able to deal with the source of your problems? If you constantly try to improve yourself and your life and are tired of the over simplicity of pop psychology, you can get deeper insights and more sophisticated and useful answers by reading philosophy. Philosophy is more than just an intellectual exercise and has more applications than just ethics.

Reading philosophy is like reading an inspirational self help book but with much more creativity and originality. Good philosophy is always very practical. Any good theory should be a useful guide in real life situations. If you have found philosophy to be overly abstract, difficult to understand, or not very practical, you should try reading Eastern philosophy or Existentialism.

Some people who are religious don't feel a need for philosophy, but philosophy is not a substitute for religion or a competitor to religion. Religion and philosophy add value to each other. Religion naturally brings up philosophical problems and philosophy is completed and answered by religion. You must commit to a particular philosophy and religion to understand them and find practical uses for it. But the answers to the questions philosophy brings up are not immediately resolved by religious doctrine.

You will find answers to what you struggle with over a long period of time, after experiencing a wide variety of different situations and spending years reflecting on all of this. Just because the answers are not quick does not mean that you are not doing it right. The reason why you haven't already solved the problems you have is that they are difficult to deal with and just because you can see a simple solution to your problem does not mean it will be easy. But philosophy and religion are worth the

time involved in their discovery and they are one of the most effective ways to find meaning in life.

### **Ethics and Consistency in Philosophy**

Philosophy reveals what kind of person you are by forcing you to prioritize your values. By forcing you to choose what standard you evaluate truth and morality, you learn more about yourself. Are you the kind of person who puts utility above all, do you believe that avoiding pain or staying alive is the most important value, or do you find that being strong and independent in thinking is best? Do you believe that moral standards should be followed because God says so, because they are good for you in the long run, because they are practical, or do you believe that you need to develop your own standards?

Philosophy teaches ethics by emphasizing consistency, which is another word for fairness. No matter what philosophy you go by, you make a deliberate decision to be the same in your expectations of yourself as you expect in others. This is one of the reasons why Existentialism talks so much about anxiety and despair: when you make a decision in how to behave, it is only fair that you have the same expectations of everybody else in that given situation and this should cause you to feel an awesome sense of responsibility (in making this kind of decision).

Philosophy can help you find a purpose and depth to your life. The reason I so enjoy reading the writings of major philosophers is their passion. If you read from Rousseau, Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, Camus, Hafiz, Meera, Kabir, Chuang Tzu, Bodhidharma, Dogen, and other major philosophers, you will realize that important philosophers have often had difficult lives fighting for their belief amongst much opposition and have made immense sacrifices in the way they live their lives to be consistent with their beliefs.

### **Creativity and Philosophy**

Philosophy and religion are very creative fields, except instead of producing some sort of physical art, philosophy

and religion creates new ideas. Just like artists use different types of media concepts to express their creative ideas in, philosophers start out with a basic set of concepts known as a philosophical or religious school.

Examples of philosophical and religious schools are: Stoicism, Epicurianism, Empiricism, Rationalism, Existentialism, Sufi Islam, Bhakti Hinduism, Sikism, Theravada Buddhism, Zen Buddhism, Pure Land Buddhism, Jainism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Legalism/Realism. Some of the greatest philosophers and religious leaders have actually successfully combined more than one school, like: Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Hegel, Kabir, Chu Hsi, and Bodhidharma.

Another way in which philosophy and art are related is that much of Asian philosophy and religion and Existentialism are expressed in visual art, literature, and music. The concepts are philosophy, but the creative work is art. Often there is an elaborate symbolism that is used to create a bridge between the two.

People can express their devotion to God and to ethical principles by creating artistic works. In the West, we often see religion as a set of doctrines that have to be accepted in their totality or not at all. In the East, it is commonly considered acceptable to mix and match different aspects of different philosophies and religions. You don't have to accept a fixed doctrine that someone else has put together.

One of the big differences between Asian and European art is that in the West, we often create a picture, because we think that it looks visually attractive, without necessarily illustrating a philosophical or religious idea. We feel free to express ourselves, with any style or combination of styles, without committing to any belief system. In the East, it is traditional to evaluate art by how well it conforms to a specific classical tradition, or how it illustrates a particular concept, in a particular school of religion or philosophy. There are established symbols and methods of writing literature or painting and conforming to this tradition is what makes it beautiful.

### **3.1.3 Schools of Philosophy**

#### **Paradox (Also Known As Non-Dualism)**

Paradox is often seen as a synonym for a contradiction, but that would be non-sensical and is not used in philosophy in this way. Dualism is a descriptor for opposite concepts like male and female or kindness and seriousness. Non-dualism or paradox acknowledges that often things that appear to be true opposites are actually related, just as the yin yang symbol represents: there is a seed of the yin in the heart of the yang and vice versa. Good and evil are often thought of as a duality, but philosophies generally have a system of ethics, so good and evil are not related paradoxically, although society's conception of right and wrong could be a paradox.

#### **The Supernatural and Asian Philosophy and Religion**

Many Christians think that studying Eastern philosophy and religion will somehow push people into the occult. The answer to this assumption is not a simple one, but I can explain the situation very clearly.

To explain the reality of the situation, a person needs to understand the basic progression of religion. The earliest phase was that of Animism, where everybody worshipped fallen angels and each country had their own gods, while 1 person or one small group of people worshipped the Creator (who was later understood to be Jesus Christ). The next phase was that of the revealed religions, which started in Asia mostly and are the basis for most major mono-theistic religions and then there were also the major non-religious philosophies of China and India that occurred at the same era. The latest phase came out of the west, with the Renaissance and the Enlightenment, based on the Greek and Roman animism, which is the basis for modern Atheism, Science, and the Theosophy movement, and modern Paganism came as the final phase.

So the Bible forbids doing any activity that involves the supernatural, without being done by God, in the way

that is described in the Scriptures. So, as a Christian, I am not going to read any type of books about supernatural practices of Animism or modern Paganism (New Age). The way things that are supernatural are dealt with in traditional Indian and Chinese philosophies is that there is no understanding of this Biblical concept and in addition, a lot of these philosophies don't distinguish between and are many times combined with different forms of Animistic supernatural practices. This occurs because Indian and Chinese philosophies and religions are not exclusive, like Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, in that it is perfectly acceptable to take parts of the Chinese and Indian philosophies and religions and combine them with any other belief system.

On the flip side, there are many writings (most of the most important) that only contain philosophy and no supernatural practices, so if you go by my list in the Book of Lists or read about each work in depth, before reading it, you can get a very deep understanding of the Indian and Chinese philosophies and religions without getting involved in any Animist supernatural practices.

### **Confucianism**

Confucianism is a philosophy indigenous to China. The Chinese philosophies are unique in that they are mostly concerned with ethics. In Chinese philosophy, like Chinese medicine, is not overly concerned with why something works, but rather that it does work.

The proof for various historical schools lie in the belief that in ancient China, that the government was more virtuous and that the society was much more peaceful and stable. In Confucian and Taoist texts, the arguments are given support by how previous sages ran the government in the past by quoting decisions individual leaders made and their historical results.

When Confucius was writing his philosophy, he based it not on his original ideas, but on how the previous dynasty ran the government. He got famous for editing the classical Book of Songs, which was a collection of love stories taken from all over China. Confucius interpreted this



romantic love as love of the state.

He believed that ethics was made up of humanity and ritual. Ritual is similar to what we call manners or protocol and humanity refers to paying attention to people's feelings and situation. He believed that the scholar should run government and that in reading the classics that the scholar would learn to be ethical.

Later on, the government gave tests for people, who wished to be leaders (as the government ran all business, which was mostly farming) and to qualify, the candidates had to prove how much they understood Confucianism, by writing poetry about its concepts. Even though China had much more advanced technology in the past, they got past over economically and militarily by Europe, because instead of rewarding advancements in technologies of war, the Chinese government rewarded the study of the arts and the humanities.

## **Taoism**

Taoism has two major schools, both of which are fundamentally different. There is Religious (or Esoteric) Taoism, which is a form of animism, based on the pre-Confucian indigenous religion of China. And then there is Philosophical Taoism, that is based on the philosophy of the I Ching, without the religious elements and is described in the writing of Lao Tzu, Chuang Tzu, and Lieh Tzu.

The philosophical Taoism is the original Taoism and is how the scholars of China practiced Taoism. When I refer to Taoism, I mean philosophical Taoism. If you find Taoist texts written after the time of Chuang Tzu and Lieh Tzu, they are mostly of Religious Taoism.

Taoism is the paradoxical counterpart to Confucianism. Whereas Confucianism is a government supported philosophy that advocates the idea of sacrificing your own self for the good of the society, Taoism stresses individuality and independence of spirit. Whereas Confucianism is concerned mostly with human affairs and the cultivation of reason, Taoism is more focused on nature and on the human spirit.

Taoism is not a religion, although it does deal with

the spiritual side of life. Taoism acknowledges a creator God, but is very vague about what that entails. Taoism, like Confucianism, is about ethics, primarily. The highest good in Taoism is staying alive, at the expense of material gain or social standing.

Taoism stresses a very extreme form of non-dualism. In Chuang Tzu, the “Discussion on Considering All Things Equal” warns of false distinctions. Taoism teaches that society has mixed up true right and wrong as it originally was understood and works against the natural state of man and so has lost its virtue. Taoism claims to be the original philosophy of China, predating the dynasty that Confucius celebrates.

The values of Taoism are humility and compassion and Taoism considers all sentient beings (including animals) to be equal in worth and to be respected equally. Taoist virtue is described as a state of spontaneity and tranquility, that is felt, while an experienced athlete is in the middle of performing, or an experienced artist or craftsmen is in the middle of creating something.

Taoism is often mixed up with Buddhism, because Zen Buddhism is a synchronization of Buddhism and Taoism, but Taoism predates Zen Buddhism by at least hundreds of years. Buddhism and Taoism are actually very opposite in nature. There is a famous picture of Confucius, Lao Tzu, and Buddha in front of a honey pot. Buddha abstains, Lao Tzu dives in, and Confucius deliberates.

### **Existentialism**

Existentialism was made famous by Sartre, who named a philosophical school, in which he included many philosophers both before and at his time, many of which vigorously rejected the label. Modern Existentialism originated with Kierkegaard and was Christian in its origins. The basis for Existentialism is in the writings of the Apostle Paul and in the writings of Augustine.

Existentialists talk frequently about the distinction between subject and object. Kierkegaard believed that we cannot be objective because of our fallen state. According to Kierkegaard, the only being that can be objective is

God. Kierkegaard and most other Existentialists believe that any system of thought cannot adequately describe the human spirit, because free will is what defines human being (human being is what Existentialism literally means).

Kierkegaard and Camus talk considerably about the absurdity of life. Kierkegaard is also obsessed with humility. Kierkegaard sees Christ's being a man and God at the same time as the greatest paradox. He also believes that our relationship with God is paradoxical too. He believes when we are most conscious of our sins and faults that we are actually closer to God than at any other time.

Kierkegaard and Sartre believe that we should feel a tremendous weight of responsibility when we make choices. Kierkegaard and Sartre both stress the importance of the freedom of will. Kierkegaard, although a committed Christian who obviously wants everyone to go to Heaven, does not believe in proselytizing, because he believes that saving faith only exists, when we believe in Christ, without anybody pressuring us into it. Kierkegaard believes that a Christian should resist the pressures of social conformity. He even goes so far to say that when everybody is Christian that nobody is Christian.

## **3.2 Main Ideas**

### **3.2.1 Why Study the Old World?**

- Have you attended public school but didn't like it precisely because you wanted to learn and you were bored out of your mind?
- Were you more interested in clubs and extra curricular activities because your school work was so repetitive and dull?
- Did you get so disillusioned by the public school system that you decided to put off college and join the military or start out in a trade?

- Do you enjoy reading and learning about other cultures and are tired of studying the American Revolution and the American Civil War?
- Are you tired of reading white American and English literature?
- Do you enjoy learning about other cultures?
- Do you see the supernatural as important in everyday life and realize that Science is not the solution to our fundamental problems?
- Have you had trouble classifying yourself into a particular social group and are more interested in helping a few friends and close family than becoming famous?
- Do you really want the world to be transformed and realize that God is the answer?

If you have had similar experiences and feelings, I invite you to Discover the Spiritual Old World with me.

### **3.2.2 Main Objective**

#### **Broader World View**

When I present different ideas of mine, I am not doing so to persuade you, but to stimulate your thinking and help you find a broader view of the world. I think that the world is becoming too analytical and is relying too much on facts and on Science as their only sources for truth.

#### **Holistic Worldview**

It is not that there is no place for linear thinking, but that there is also value in holistic, artistic, and creative approaches to problems as well. I am not trying to get rid of Science, but rather show people that the spiritual world is just as important and that emotions are as useful as facts in decision making.

### **Think For Yourself**

I could have argued some of my main philosophical ideas more directly to the point that they would be much more persuasive, but I am more interested in getting you to think for yourself rather than just getting my ideas adopted. I want people to come up with their own ideas and take responsibility for their outcomes rather than just regurgitating what they were told.

### **What God Wants**

I believe this idea of coming up with your own ideas is an integral part of the Bible. God wants us to freely choose to follow Him and to choose to follow him with our intellect and emotions as well as our spirit. He wants us to really believe in what He values and take risks in applying these truths we need to accept whether we understand them or not in the best way we know how.

### **Christ and Christianity**

We need to see beyond a set of doctrines and realize that Christ is more than what a systematic theology can explain and accept Him as a role model and as an individual. We need to pursue a life as it was lived by Christ in its entirety and to do so we must use our intellect and emotions to apply His personality and values to our very different situations.

### **3.2.3 How I Can Both be a Free Thinker and a Christian**

#### **Christianity is about Free Choice**

Many people associate free thought with Atheism and Science. But the most real part of the world is the spiritual world and the thing that defines humanity is our free choice. Although Science is not rejected by specific Biblical Scriptures, a worldview that sees things only from a material perspective misses out on so much.

### **Christianity is Multicultural**

Many colonial powers tried to use Christianity, to control people in the third world and in their own countries. But, if you read the Bible and talk to most people in the world who call themselves Christians, you will realize that they come mostly from the third world and are very often very anti-western. Christianity is the world's most popular and culturally diverse belief system and it did not get to the point it is today, by advocating the domination of people.

### **Christianity is Misunderstood in the West**

The reason why Christianity has been used to support the establishment is because it is a poor person's religion, but all the negative ideas people have tried to make the Bible say are not in there. People in the West need to read the other books of the Bible that you don't here often in Western churches, like the Prophets and they need to re-read the Letters of Paul in a totally different context, to really understand what the Bible is all about.

### **The Church is not the Problem**

The Church dominated Western Civilization, in Medieval Times, but the basis for Democracy and Capitalism has nothing to do with the Bible. The basis for modern ideas of toleration are often thought of as a result of the Enlightenment. But, if you read John Locke's Letter Concerning Toleration, you will realize that the basis for not pressuring someone into believing in something comes from Biblical concepts.

### **Why Christianity is the Best Religion**

Christianity is the best belief system, because it effectively deals with our spiritual selves, in a way that no other belief system does. The Bible explains the way to freedom and dignity, for all those suffering. Christ is a loving God, who saves us from destroying ourselves and we are now seeing the destruction of Revelations taking place before us. We are beginning to realize that our

Apocalypse is self induced and the environmental disasters, that we will be experiencing, are all the direct result of sin and greed. Our problems are not a matter of us not being smart enough or things that can be avoided through technological advancement.

### **Solving our Problems**

Our true enemy is not the devil, but our own selfishness. God wants us to be creative and happy in life, but He knows, as He has lived as one of us, that we need Him in our lives, to find fulfillment and joy. We need to embrace the spiritual side of life and live as God intended us to, or else we will destroy ourselves, not just economically, but morally and emotionally. But God wants us to make this choice of our own free will. And God has different paths for all of us, but they start with a simple prayer.

## **3.3 Ethical Vision**

### **3.3.1 Why Avoid Objectivity?**

#### **Fear of Controversy**

It is a sad situation today where so few writers of non-fiction know so little about their subjects that they find a need to hide behind facts and statistics. Writers are afraid of having people not like them, because their readers disagree with their conclusions. Most people think that religion and politics are controversial, but in any discipline in even the most narrow and academic subjects are constantly torn part by bitter and nasty debates and whose participants are in a constant struggle to get followers to their approach. It is sad that where there used to be a belief that the free exchange of ideas was of utmost importance, there now seems like there are only certain opinions that people are allowed to have, if they want to be considered as serious or an educated person.

## **Believe in Yourself**

My approach is that I want people to come up with their own ideas and I actually don't want any followers. But I still have very definite opinions on almost everything and I will argue in favor of what I believe. It is great that others disagree strongly as I enjoy real diversity caused by real differentiators like: income, regional history, belief system, political beliefs, family influence, sub culture, hobbies, career, talents, life experiences, and the like. Lets learn to disagree even on important issues and have some faith in what we believe in enough to know that it will prevail. The only thing that I hope to agree upon with my readers is the avoidance of the mainstream beliefs and of the supernatural.

### **3.3.2 Definitions**

#### **Defining Terms**

One of the most important aspect of debate is at the very beginning, where you define your terms. Many arguments are in opposition to each other mainly because of a difference, in what the key words involved mean. Philosophy is largely about defining words and philosophical schools are often branched out, according to the philosopher's understanding, of key terms. When you are not clear on how someone is using words and what they mean by them, you cannot fully understand their message.

#### **Denotation**

Denotation is the dictionary definition of a word. Although words evolve over time, according to how they are used or misused, the denotation is a more precise and direct understanding of the word in question. Denotation is the official definition, although there can be more than one and the wording used differs by dictionary.



## **Connotation**

Connotation is based on what a word is thought to imply, rather than what its official definition is. The word Christian communicates a wide range of different stereotypes, that have nothing to do with what the word Christian means. Many other loaded words can divide people, not based on the standard meaning of words, but rather on what prejudices people assume to be true, based on public education, government and powerful lobbies propaganda, peer pressure, group think, and political correctness.

## **My Use of Connotation and Denotation**

When I use many of the words I frequently refer to, I often am writing about how I perceive the connotation and how it corrupts people's understanding, of the reality of the situation. I also use certain words, for their connotation, rather than their denotation. I believe that the word Christian is used very stereotypically and challenged by poorly formed arguments. These arguments are based mostly on inaccurate assumptions, personal experience that are not typical, and on looking for arguments against Christians, instead of trying to find the truth. In other words, because many of those arguing against Christianity do not stick to facts and are not consistent or rational in their arguments, I feel fine with treating Atheism and Science the same way. But I will not claim to be objective, like those, who often attack Christianity, claim.

### **3.3.3 Radical Equality**

#### **The Principle**

The big principle that unites most my ethical beliefs is a principle I call "radical equality". My sense of fairness is not based on getting my own way, but, rather on everybody being completely equal in every way. People, animals, and the entire ecosystem should be treated with equal weight and should all be empowered to enjoy the same rights and responsibilities. All rules should apply in every situation and should be based on general principles,

instead of detail oriented laws that were designed, for rich people to not have to follow them, but are targeted for poor people instead.

### **Same Application in Every Situation**

I believe that animals should have the same rights as people, that employees and employers both have an obligation to each other, that immigration law should be the same for every country, that women should be treated exactly the same as men, that if it is wrong to kill or hurt a person the same applies to an unborn baby as applies to an animal as applies to the environment as applies to any one else.

I believe that social services are as important, as law enforcement and national security; that businesses and individuals should pay the same taxes and have the same responsibilities; that father and mothers should have an equal access to their children, when they get divorced; that the environment is as important as the economy; that everyone should get the same financial aid for college; that everyone should have an equal choice as to what education they get; and people should always follow laws, no matter how unimportant they are, how hard it is to get caught, how little the punishment is, or inconvenient they are.

I believe that laws should be more severe, based on how many people are hurt and that economic crimes will get the same penalties as “violent” or physical crimes; that our policies toward other countries should be rated on how they treat their people and not on how much money corporations can make off of their resources; that we should give equal consideration in transportation funding, per person, based on how much energy they consume, in their method of transport; that any organization that has employees and receives money should be taxed equally, no matter what the organization is: a small business, a non-profit, or a large corporation.

### **Consistency Plus Holistic Worldview**

In my writings, I have combined the ideas of radical equality, or extreme consistency, with a holistic worldview. I apply the same values or ethical standards to both: religion and politics, to my use of money and my treatment of others, and to my philosophical reasoning and my writing style. I don't see the environment and the economy, labor rights and animal rights, or my personal morality and my expectations of others as separate things. My religion affects everything in my life including: my beliefs, how I spend my money, how I relate with others, what I choose to write about, and what I expect out of others. My key value is radical equality.

### **Reality and Ethical Ideals**

I realize that I don't have the ability to change the course of government or the culture and even if I do eventually have an influence, it might be centuries away if at all. But just like we still try to follow the ideals in the US Constitution and our religious writings, even in the face of corruption and greed, so we need ethical/moral standards to strive for. Just like in Christianity we get forgiven for everything we turn from and feel bad about, we still need to do our best to reform our ways, to have deeds that provide proof for our faith. We should continue to do as much as we can and not give up just because change is hard or that we can't get others to fully change their ways.

#### **3.3.4 Redundancy**

##### **Plan on Being Short**

It seems like most people like to put everything to the last minute and the last dollar. Not having extra money and extra time to do something or buy something is asking for trouble. It almost always takes people 4 times as long to finish something than they thought. There is always something unexpected, that you need to allow extra money for. Car repairs can cost thousands very easily and medical bills can easily be in the tens of thousands.

### **Be Self Reliant**

Never rely on anyone else, to do something, or to be on time for anything. Always have backups of your backups, for your important computer files, as backups and the originals can easily fail. Everything fails and you will fail yourself.

### **Murphy's Law**

Redundancy is needed in every walk of life and in every aspect of your life. The one thing I believe in with my whole heart other than the Bible is Murphy's Law. Everything that can go wrong will. Just plan on everything, that could, by any possibility, not work, always assume it will not work and plan ahead accordingly.

### **Have More Than You Need**

Of course you cannot plan out everything and not everything is so important. But anything you value must have an alternate plan. Plan for not having power, running water, or sewer, for at least 72 hours, in the worst time possible. Always be prepared for the weather to change. Carry extra money in cash, to get yourself home, no matter where you are. Do not depend on battery power or credit cards. Always have at least several months of salary saved. Make sure you can get to the money, even if your home is destroyed.

### **Risky Investments**

Don't invest any money, you cannot lose, in anything less reliable than US government bonds or in the bank, earning interest. Never put any money in the stock market that you cannot afford to lose. Most investments are risky to the point of being educated gambling and like gambling in Los Vegas, you can lose everything you have. Do not depend on anything you do not have in cash. Real estate has lost considerable value periodically. Never buy on credit, if you do not have the money, on hand, in the bank, already.

**Natural or Man Made Disasters**

Plan on your house being destroyed by: flood, earthquake, volcano, or civil unrest. Live in a safe neighborhood and in a city, that is not big enough, to be targeted by terrorists. Have alternate locations, where you can travel to, on foot, where you can live, in the case of natural or man made disasters. Store valuable information, in other locations, than just your house. Keep a list of important phone numbers and addresses.

**What to Have on Hand**

Always keep water on hand, in enough quantity, to last for, at least 72 hours. Have a sanitary way to dispose of your human waste, without modern plumbing and sewage, on hand, in your house. Keep some sort of self defense on you, most importantly, to keep dogs off you. The best way to deal with animals is pepper spray or even better, do not be in their way. Never feed a wild animal, block its exit, or bother its children.

**What the Government Will Do**

Do not expect the government to help you out, when you are in a bad situation. Even during natural disasters, the government is their to contain you, rather than help you. If a disaster happens that affects your town, expect people to come to the door, asking for your valuables, with no badges or uniforms, who have firearms, loaded and ready to shoot.

**More than Necessary**

When you learn multiplication and division, you are getting good at addition and subtraction; when you are learn algebra, you get good as multiplication and division; when you learn calculus, you get good at algebra. In the military, you always train to a higher standard than what is necessary in your job. If you need to run a 5km, learn to run a 10km. If your boss tells you to arrive a 9, get there by no later than 8:30.

### **Above and Beyond**

The only way to be on time is to arrive early. The only way to pass a test is to practice beyond what you are tested on. Always do more than necessary. Always go above and beyond and you will always accomplish what you set out to do.

## **3.4 Spiritual Vision**

### **3.4.1 No Perfect Solution**

#### **You Pay for What You Get**

There is no perfect solution to any problems. Everything has its upsides and its downsides. You can't have your cake and eat it too. There are no silver bullets. To get something worthwhile you have to pay for it and not buy something else with the same money. If you don't want to save for something before you buy it, then you will be in debt and you will pay many times the amount you would have before, long after what you have used up what you bought. There is no way around it.

#### **You Can't Get Everything You Want**

In computers it is often said that you only get 2 of the following 3: cheap price, easy set up, and works. In software you can have any 2 of the following 3: efficiency, cross-platform, and easy to create.

### **Roots of Problems with Economy**

The problems we have with the economy that have faced almost every government throughout history is that either the government, the leader, and/or the people want to get something without having to save for it and then they want to either get out of paying for it, delay paying for it, and then they try to avoid the inherent risk of doing this. The easy way to solve the problem with credit is to not

use credit and instead of taking on a huge risk by borrowing money for a given venture, you save up your money before hand to buy whatever you want to.

### **People Want Everything without Working For it**

This is the way with every issue including politics: people don't want to have to pay taxes, but they want all kinds of government services. Businesses and non-profits want to use someone else's money to borrow, but then they don't want any outside group that they borrow the money from to exert any influence. People want to win a war fast and cheaply, but they don't want to have to volunteer to fight in it, make sacrifices to support those who have volunteered, and they don't want the ones they are fighting to not like them or their country. Businesses want to be able to use up limited resources and leave their waste without cleaning it up and not have to pay the cost of this permanent damage.

### **Things Don't Just Happen**

Just understand now that no one can give you anything for free, even if they want to. You must fight for everything you have got. You won't win the lottery, but you probably will get cancer. You may work hard, but you probably won't become famous, wealthy, or powerful. You will probably not make any more money than your parents did. You will not find the perfect job, wife, or have perfect children. Things do not just fall in your lap for free. Bad things will happen to you but good things will only come to the few, the lucky, those who know the right people, and will fade away fast.

### **The Real Solution**

To be free of this, accept reality and focus on helping others and secure your place for eternity. The only thing you know for sure will happen is where you will go after you die. You will have to give up everything for it, but it will be not be enough, so God will give it to you for free, as

He has already paid the price. You can either have a brief time with lots of money or everlasting life. Choose now. You cannot have both. Either way it is not free.

### **3.4.2 How to Help Our World**

#### **Most Problems are Spiritual in Nature**

Most of the major problems our country is facing now, including our debt crisis, environmental crisis, energy consumption crisis, and the increasing power of terrorists are all spiritual in nature. The judgements in Revelations are all caused by environmental disasters, the esistance to the West in the Muslim world has been very effective in blocking the growth of Christianity, and the reason for most wars (including the present ones in the Middle East) for the last several hundred years at least are planned by those who spiritually control the world behind the scenes. So to deal with these problems politically is not effective, because they are spiritual in nature.

#### **God's Rules**

We have no power directly over the spiritual world, but God places certain rules on what things are allowed by whom in the spiritual world. God wants people to be in control of their own destiny, so He allows us to take part in His plans, by praying for His will to be done. This takes away the limitations God places on Himself and increases His influence throughout the world. Why God has chosen to work this way may not make sense to most people, but I know it does work this way.

#### **God is in Control**

We do not need to fear the problems in the world today, because God places special protection on His people. It is true that the spiritual forces that hate God, what He stands for, and His people have plenty of power to destroy us, and the reason why we have not been defeated from the beginning is because God is in the world with



His Spirit and doesn't allow those behind the scenes to directly hurt His people. The forces against God have the most power when they are doing things in secret and they can get people to stop praying and reading the Bible.

### **What We Can Do**

We are in control of our future very directly. We can take up the cause and choose to be a part of God's plan for the future, or we can do it our own way, but either way God will ultimately win and we will serve one master or another. The best that we can do to help improve our world is to: pray for God's will to be done, have the right attitude before God, read the Bible, and show God's love in the way we treat others in everything we do.

### **3.4.3 Solutions for Our Addictions**

#### **Our Problems are All Addictions**

All our problems in America come down to addictions. Our addictions to drugs and alcohol, addictions to fighting the appearance of age, addictions to games and sports, addictions to information and the Internet, addictions to sex and fetishes, addictions to work and networking, addictions to money and investments, addictions to coffee and sugar, addictions to food and weight loss, and all the other ways in which we distract ourselves are caused by our fear of the increasing signs of global catastrophe. The number one reason why our youth pursue distractions is because they seriously believe they will not live past the age of 30.

#### **Real Solution is Prayer**

The real solution to our addictions is to solve our environmental, economic, cultural, and religious divisions, that are increasing in their violent confrontations, because we are at the limits of the oil, water, and soil that we need to survive. There are only 2 solutions: stop our addictions to our distractions in the West or a massive die off

of the poorest part of the population in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. We already know which solution those in power would prefer. The only way to avoid this solution is to pray.

### **Rebellion Against God is the Cause**

We know that all our problems are rooted in our rebellion against the Christian God and His laws. The way to break the cycle is to submit ourselves to God and pray that His will be done. There is no other way to affect change on a global scale. Only God's intervention will save us and will only come when we are truly sorry for our addictions and stop participating in them. That is the power of consumerism of American corporate culture: that we are addicted to it.

### **The Weak are Hurt Most**

The consequences for our addictions is that the poor, the weak, and the sick are going to be trampled upon by our masters – the corporations. When we sin, we hurt pollute the natural world, the animals and our soil and water. There only defense is God's divine intervention. It is the only way to destroy the disease of sin, where it breeds. Our only liberation is through our choice to pray that the will of God happens, in our lives, as it does in Heaven.

### **Our Heads and in our Hearts**

If we try our way out by science and technology, we will face the same problem within 50 years. The only way we will last to the next century is for us to turn to God. The underlying problem is not a war in the Heavens or on Earth, but the war in our hearts. We need to defeat our carnal self and empower our spiritual self, and that is the key to our survival on earth. We can only do this, by first submitting to God, in all areas of our lives.

### **3.4.4 Why So Negative?**

#### **Reasons**

Sometimes my writing may appear negative, but there are good reasons for that. For one, writings is therapeutic for me and helps me accept the things that I cannot control in my life that causes my problems. Second, it is very hard to write something positive and uplifting or humorous. A third reason is that we live in very serious times.

#### **Things are Going Well**

What I want my readers to know is that most the most important things in my life are going very well and have been improving greatly each year for the last 10 years. I have learned a lot about myself, my illness, and what caused the major problems in the world today. My mental health has improved greatly as well as my independence. I have a great family and have enjoyed spending my time with them and sometimes I have been able to help them with some things. I have read about computers every day over the last 7 years and have increased my ability to fix or avoid problems as well as my ability to create better graphics and publish books. I have continued to do better financially each year and I have more money saved and my income is very secure.

## **3.5 Personal Religious Experience**

### **3.5.1 Why am I a Christian?**

#### **Why My Experience is Unusual**

I don't have the typical experience of being an unbeliever as a child and then accepting the Lord as my Saviour later in my life. I cannot remember exactly what was in my mind when I first asked the the Lord into my heart. I was only 4, but the following factors were likely in my mind, as soon as I could understand anything about myself.

## **Why I Began to Believe**

There are four major factors in my decision to become born again and stay with the faith since then. Most importantly, I have always know that I needed help and the fact that needed it was much more obvious from my time in the military and since then. I wasn't a big leap to submit myself to God, because I hated arrogance more than anything else and understood why God placed the most importance on the ideal of humility. I never considered another faith as I knew that God was like how he was portrayed in the Christian bible, as I have a certain sensitivity to the spiritual things, and I could feel God's presence.

## **What Continued my Interest**

And one of the things that has made me continue to be mentally, emotionally, and spiritually interested in the Bible is because of its complexity compared to other religious, philosophical, literary, and historical works of the greatest human thinkers. People are known to memorize the Koran and Buddhist Sutras, but I have never heard of a person who could conceivably memorize the entire Bible. The Bible is very simple and at the same time the greatest thinkers have struggled with even basic Christian doctrines (which is major reason why there are so many different denominations).

### **3.5.2 My Testimony**

#### **Life Events Were Unexpected**

My life didn't turn out like I thought it would. But, I am very happy with my life how it is now. When you are young you believe that you can be a famous singer, actor, athlete, politician, or CEO. Later in life you realize that the main reason so little really changes even of things that everyone can agree with and don't require any sacrifice is that no one really wants change. Most people who get into power don't get there because they want to change the world, but rather are so willing to compromise and so

willing to do anything to fit in, that they have no vision and no integrity.

### **The Most Power**

The wisest man knows that a father and a mother are the ones with the most power in the world. They may not change a lot of people's minds, but they have more impact on their children than anyone else will. And having kids is usually so easy that we usually go to great lengths to prevent it.

### **How to Make a Difference**

The best way to improve the world is find what you are good at, find a skill you do that someone will pay you for, and use the latter to finance the former. You can tell you are doing the right thing when you have a lot of powerful opposition, you cannot reach many people, you cannot make any money off it, or that no one finds you relevant.

### **Failure of Greatest Thinkers**

The best test of whether you will change the world will be by how much you are rejected in your generation. Confucius, Baha'ullah, Socrates, the Apostle Paul, Spinoza, Rousseau, Hume, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and many other major thinkers were failures during their lifetimes. Abraham Lincoln lost election after election, but never gave up. Van Gogh couldn't sell his paintings to pay for a meal.

### **What I had Planned**

When I was in high school, I was interested in international relations and wanted to become a wealthy philanthropist in international marketing (the distribution part). Then I went into the military and after not being able to complete my enlistment and my failure in college business classes (I took accounting 5 times before I passed), I realized that what I was good at was writing. Before I had a chance to complete my schooling and find a career,

I was diagnosed with Paranoid Schizophrenia, and started out in the mental ward of the local private hospital and worked my way up to where I am now – living independently.

### **Biggest Influences**

But the reason I am happy with my life is not just because I had been able to accept my illness easily, as I was glad I didn't have cancer like I thought and I got rid of chronic allergic pink eye with my first antipsychotic. My real success is because of the direct divine intervention of the Christian God and the ability of my family to accept and embrace me despite my illness and their willingness to continually and ability to effectively advocate for me.

### **Divine Intervention**

From the placement of myself in a base that was not going to be deployed to a war zone, was in the US, as well as in a command that was willing to let me go with an honorable discharge; to my diagnosis before I had committed any crimes, to my staying out of the hospital ever since I was diagnosed, to the fact that the newest medicines effectively treated my mental illness; and to my ability to be more independent every year, to my ability to understand abstract thought, to having the motivation to study the same things for 10 years after college all happened miraculously; because of God was looking over me and intervened directly on my behalf.

### **Family Influence**

Most of the direction and inspiration in my writings came from things my sister, mother, father, grandmother, and uncles Clive and Jeff told me and set as an example by their actions as I grew up.

### **3.5.3 My Approach to Christianity**

#### **Paradox and the Bible**

I believe in the miraculous of the Bible, plus the social gospel, as I do in every other major paradox of the Bible. Most my beliefs are based on paradoxes. Many people often consider paradoxes to be contradictions, but I use the term differently: I think of paradoxes are things, that are considered contradictory at first, but upon further examination, we realize that they are complimentary, like male and female. The most important paradox of Christianity is that Jesus Christ is the One Creator God eternally and also was fully human, while on earth (at the same time).

#### **Paradox and Faith**

The reason why I believe that faith is the most important aspect of understanding the Bible is because paradoxes are best understood with the heart instead of the mind. The Bible is not written, to communicate the exact same thing, to everyone and is designed, so that even the greatest theologians will never find a systematic way to explain it. The Bible was not meant to be argued rationally, but believed by those who are willing to place their hope in God, rather than their own minds and their own abilities. The biggest thing that God hates is an arrogant person and the more we are able to explain the natural world, through rational means, the bigger our egos get and the less we feel the need for God. At the same time, we realize the things we thought that we understood well, we knew less about than we thought.

#### **The Apocalypse and the Environment**

Many people have read the prophecy of the Bible and come to the conclusion that God is planning on destroying us, for no good reason. The irony of the situation is that we can see prophecy being fulfilled today and most of the plagues of the Bible are environmental disasters, that we created ourselves. God was not punishing us, but rather letting us feel the consequences, of our own greed

and arrogance. We have know for a while what was necessary to make the world livable, for our grandchildren and it has been proven to us in ways that we can understand, but no one cares enough, to give up any of our toys, so that we can save our future. We are so addicted to our gods (our brands), that we cannot cut back on our consumption, even if it would make life better, for all of us.

### **My Writing and Paradox**

Many of my books are based on paradoxes like how: Muslims understand God the Father, Zen Buddhists and Bhakti Hindus understand the Holy Spirit, and African Christians understand Jesus Christ better than any church in North America and Europe does. I then talked about how the body and the mind are as important a component of a person and their relationship with society as the heart and the spirit, and how both eternal salvation and social justice are equally important. I also talked about how we can be encouraged and live in hope and strive to improve ourselves, even as our world is being destroyed, and how we should consider businesses and people to be just as important and how the rights of both Christians and Muslims should be equally respected.

## **3.6 Religion and the Church**

### **3.6.1 What is the Best Church?**

#### **No Church is Perfect**

There is no one perfect church or denomination. Evangelicals are good at sticking to their beliefs no matter what the obstacles, the Catholic church is great for its service, Mainline Protestants are good at social issues, and the Eastern Orthodox Church is great at its emphasis on mysticism. All churches are good at something and what you like about them will be different from me. No church is perfect in its theology and its commitment to living the Scriptures.



**New Members**

The things that I think is lacking in most churches are its commitment to new members and in making them feel welcome. It is hard to find a good church today, as they are so inward focused that they don't seem to care if someone new comes. Many churches are also bad at catering to young singles. Basically the church expects you to be out all weekend getting drunk, until you get married and have kids in your mid thirties.

**Can't Agree with Any**

The reason I don't go to church currently is because most churches I tried were too conservative politically and the liberal ones don't seem to have much commitment to Scripture. I just get angry at the conservative churches and don't feel any reason to go to the liberal ones. I like the Catholic Church because it combines both of the things I like about Evangelical and Mainline Protestant Churches. But I don't have the patience to go through a year long induction process. I also cannot agree with Catholic theology about Mary and the veneration of "saints".

**The Bus Problem**

The decisive thing is that the bus only comes one every hour on Sunday and that they often miss your stop, because they are too full, late, or just don't want to bother to stop. You then have to wait 2 hours and then you have to transfer and may have to wait an hour, for that as well and then do the same going back. You have to get to church really early and stay really long, to do it, which makes me very uncomfortable. And I heard they're cutting Sunday service totally with the bus now.

**3.6.2 What About Sexual Morality?****Why Avoid It?**

I do not talk about sexual morality, as it is explained in the Bible, because I believe that that is one of the things

other Christians have explained well. I have nothing to add to that. I like to write about things I know and things that are poorly understood as I have limited resources and don't feel the need to cover something, when I could not do any better myself at it. I am not going to cover every issue in the Bible, but I do believe that Biblical sexual ethics are important and should be followed.

### **What I Do Cover**

I focus mainly on economic and environmental ethics and discipline, because I believe that these are not explained well or understood well from a Biblical point of view. I also focus on parts of the Bible that are not talked about as much and are not understood as well like the Prophets. I am confident that when people read the Bible, they will notice all the other issues described in the Bible, that I have not covered, and I don't think people will miss or have trouble interpreting Scripture related to sexual ethics.

### **3.6.3 Why Don't I Work with Others?**

#### **I Appeal to a Small Group**

My experiences working in a team is that I do all the work and everyone else gets credit for it. The Humanities approach has fallen out of favor in the 20th century and Science and Social Science have dominated the field, in my lifetime. I also have a unique perspective on my study of religion, which would make it hard to find someone doing something compatible. Christians don't like what I do, because I am liberal in my politics and am willing to study other religions and points of view. And non-Christians don't like my adherence to Christian morals and my unwillingness to include pagan, animistic, and occult writings and practices.

#### **Few Would Respond**

I would love to inspire someone else to be a philosopher, but I wouldn't want consider them as a successor if they

adopted my philosophy or mainstream views and I would not consider anyone to be inspired by me who takes part in occult practices or study occult writings. I truly do walk the path less traveled and few people are interested in the study of philosophy or even are willing to read about anything, even things they agree with. I do still want more people to become Christians, even though I don't want anyone to feel pressured into it, because I believe that Christianity is a superior religion, but I believe that the Bible speaks for itself and does not need to be defended.

### **3.6.4 Why are Christians so Mean?**

Probably because they are not genuine believers. Genuine Christians make mistakes, but they have the right attitude before God. You can tell by a person's actions, more than by their words what they believe. Genuine Christians exhibit the fruits of the spirit.

#### **Fruits of Righteousness (or Fruits of the Spirit)**

#### **Psalms**

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

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<sup>1</sup>Psalm 1

## Isaiah

Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment. And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim, and the ears of them that hear shall hearken. The heart also of the rash shall understand knowledge, and the tongue of the stammerers shall be ready to speak plainly. The vile person shall be no more called liberal, nor the churl said to be bountiful. For the vile person will speak villany, and his heart will work iniquity, to practise hypocrisy, and to utter error against the LORD, to make empty the soul of the hungry, and he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail. The instruments also of the churl are evil: he deviseth wicked devices to destroy the poor with lying words, even when the needy speaketh right. But the liberal deviseth liberal things; and by liberal things shall he stand. Rise up, ye women that are at ease; hear my voice, ye careless daughters; give ear unto my speech. Many days and years shall ye be troubled, ye careless women: for the vintage shall fail, the gathering shall not come. Tremble, ye women that are at ease; be troubled, ye careless ones: strip you, and make you bare, and gird sackcloth upon your loins. They shall lament for the teats, for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine. Upon the land of my people shall come up thorns and briers; yea, upon all the houses of joy in the joyous city: Because the palaces shall be forsaken; the multitude of the city shall be left; the forts and towers shall be for dens for ever, a joy of wild asses, a pasture of flocks; Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruit-

ful field be counted for a forest. Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field. And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places; When it shall hail, coming down on the forest; and the city shall be low in a low place. Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters, that send forth thither the feet of the ox and the ass.

2

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David. Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people. Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee. Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are

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<sup>2</sup>Isaiah 32

your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

3

## **Luke**

A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might

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<sup>3</sup>Isaiah 55

not see, and hearing they might not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience. No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light. For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad. Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.

4

**John**

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no

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<sup>4</sup>Luke 8:5-18

more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another. If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will



keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. He that hateth me hateth my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause. But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

5

## 2 Corinthians

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the

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<sup>5</sup>John 15

saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

6

### **Galatians**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

7

### **Colossians**

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit. For this cause we also, since the

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<sup>6</sup>2 Corinthians 9:6-12

<sup>7</sup>Galatians 5:22-26

day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and un-reproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; Who now rejoice in my

sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

8

### **James**

My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is

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<sup>8</sup>Colossians 1

tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh. Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

9

## 2 Peter

Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called

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<sup>9</sup>James 3

us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him

in the holy mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

10

## 3.7 Christian Theology

### 3.7.1 The Covenant with God

#### New Testament and Old Testament God

Many people say they like the God of the Old Testament or the God of the New Testament and many people, even Christians, see these as opposing points of view and have a hard time reconciling them. One of the ways of understanding Scripture is the idea of progressive revelation, like in Mayana Buddhism, where God reveals more about Himself, over time. Many people think the Old Testament God was really repressive and that the New Testament God was very lenient and forgiving, but in reality it was the same God and the same moral standard.

#### Evolution of the Covenants

The New Testament and the Old Testament are named, after the 2 covenants God made, with man. The first was made with Abraham, renewed with Moses, and the Prophets. We learn later on in the Psalms and the Prophets that God does not delight, in the ceremonies He prescribed for people's forgiveness, but rather desired people, to make a genuine change of heart. We find out later on that all

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<sup>10</sup>2 Peter 1

the commandments, summarized in the 10 Commandments, that would never be changed, until Jesus comes back again in glory, were about loving God, with all our heart and loving our neighbor, as ourselves.

### **Spiritual Realities**

Throughout prophecy, we learn that idolatry and adultery are related and in the New Testament, we are told we either serve God or money, and in the Apocalypse, there will only be 2 options: serve God or serve the false gods. God judges people differently, who have heard about Him and made a commitment or covenant with Him and those who are ignorant of this. God takes loyalty to Him, as the most important thing, and the Bible teaches how serving God is the same, as loving others and doing good.

### **Being Christian = Being Kind**

Not only were the pagan cultures of Biblical times worshipping false gods, but they were treating their people bad as well. The Bible connects your relationship with God, with your level of morality. As Christians mature, they are provided proof of their faith, in the way that they act. Being a committed Christian is supposed to be the same as being a kind person. We are in constant battle, between our spiritual and our carnal selves, and when we sin, our carnal self is in control and we are violating God's laws. Christians do continue to sin, but they should sin less and less, as they mature. If a Christian fails, to try to reform themselves, then the Bible basically says they are not real believers.

### **Exodus 34:**

1 And the LORD said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest. 2 And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to me in the top of the mount. 3 And no man shall



come up with thee, neither let any man be seen throughout all the mount; neither let the flocks nor herds feed before that mount. 4 And he hewed two tables of stone like unto the first; and Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up unto mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tables of stone. 5 And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. 8 And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped. 9 And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiffnecked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance. 10 And he said, Behold, I make a covenant: before all thy people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou art shall see the work of the LORD: for it is a terrible thing that I will do with thee. 11 Observe thou that which I command thee this day: behold, I drive out before thee the Amorite, and the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite. 12 Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee: 13 But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: 14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: 15 Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice; 16 And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods. 17 Thou shalt make thee no molten gods.

18 The feast of unleavened bread shalt thou keep. Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, as I commanded thee, in the time of the month Abib: for in the month Abib thou camest out from Egypt. 19 All that openeth the matrix is mine; and every firstling among thy cattle, whether ox or sheep, that is male. 20 But the firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb: and if thou redeem him not, then shalt thou break his neck. All the firstborn of thy sons thou shalt redeem. And none shall appear before me empty. 21 Six days thou shalt work, but on the seventh day thou shalt rest: in earing time and in harvest thou shalt rest. 22 And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the year's end. 23 Thrice in the year shall all your men children appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel. 24 For I will cast out the nations before thee, and enlarge thy borders: neither shall any man desire thy land, when thou shalt go up to appear before the LORD thy God thrice in the year. 25 Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leaven; neither shall the sacrifice of the feast of the passover be left unto the morning. 26 The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring unto the house of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk. 27 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel. 28 And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments. 29 And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him. 30 And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him. 31 And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them. 32 And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount

Sinai. 33 And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face. 34 But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded. 35 And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

### **Deuteronomy 29:**

1 These are the words of the covenant, which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, beside the covenant which he made with them in Horeb. 2 And Moses called unto all Israel, and said unto them, Ye have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt unto Pharaoh, and unto all his servants, and unto all his land; 3 The great temptations which thine eyes have seen, the signs, and those great miracles: 4 Yet the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day. 5 And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot. 6 Ye have not eaten bread, neither have ye drunk wine or strong drink: that ye might know that I am the LORD your God. 7 And when ye came unto this place, Sihon the king of Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, came out against us unto battle, and we smote them: 8 And we took their land, and gave it for an inheritance unto the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to the half tribe of Manasseh. 9 Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do. 10 Ye stand this day all of you before the LORD your God; your captains of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, with all the men of Israel, 11 Your little ones, your wives, and thy stranger that is in thy camp, from the hewer of thy wood unto the drawer of thy water: 12 That thou shouldest enter into covenant with the LORD thy God, and into his oath, which the LORD thy God maketh with thee this day: 13 That he may establish thee to day for a people unto himself, and

that he may be unto thee a God, as he hath said unto thee, and as he hath sworn unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. 14 Neither with you only do I make this covenant and this oath; 15 But with him that standeth here with us this day before the LORD our God, and also with him that is not here with us this day: 16 (For ye know how we have dwelt in the land of Egypt; and how we came through the nations which ye passed by; 17 And ye have seen their abominations, and their idols, wood and stone, silver and gold, which were among them:) 18 Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood; 19 And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst: 20 The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven. 21 And the LORD shall separate him unto evil out of all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this book of the law: 22 So that the generation to come of your children that shall rise up after you, and the stranger that shall come from a far land, shall say, when they see the plagues of that land, and the sicknesses which the LORD hath laid upon it; 23 And that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass groweth therein, like the overthrow of Sodom, and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger, and in his wrath: 24 Even all nations shall say, Wherefore hath the LORD done thus unto this land? what meaneth the heat of this great anger? 25 Then men shall say, Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them forth out of the land of Egypt: 26 For they went and served other gods, and worshipped them, gods whom they knew

not, and whom he had not given unto them: 27 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land, to bring upon it all the curses that are written in this book: 28 And the LORD rooted them out of their land in anger, and in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as it is this day. 29 The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

**Jeremiah 34:**

1 The word which came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and all his army, and all the kingdoms of the earth of his dominion, and all the people, fought against Jerusalem, and against all the cities thereof, saying, 2 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Go and speak to Zedekiah king of Judah, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire: 3 And thou shalt not escape out of his hand, but shalt surely be taken, and delivered into his hand; and thine eyes shall behold the eyes of the king of Babylon, and he shall speak with thee mouth to mouth, and thou shalt go to Babylon. 4 Yet hear the word of the LORD, O Zedekiah king of Judah; Thus saith the LORD of thee, Thou shalt not die by the sword: 5 But thou shalt die in peace: and with the burnings of thy fathers, the former kings which were before thee, so shall they burn odours for thee; and they will lament thee, saying, Ah lord! for I have pronounced the word, saith the LORD. 6 Then Jeremiah the prophet spake all these words unto Zedekiah king of Judah in Jerusalem, 7 When the king of Babylon's army fought against Jerusalem, and against all the cities of Judah that were left, against Lachish, and against Azekah: for these defenced cities remained of the cities of Judah. 8 This is the word that came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, after that the king Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people which were at Jerusalem, to proclaim liberty unto them; 9 That every man should let his manservant, and every man his maid-

servant, being an Hebrew or an Hebrewess, go free; that none should serve himself of them, to wit, of a Jew his brother. 10 Now when all the princes, and all the people, which had entered into the covenant, heard that every one should let his manservant, and every one his maidervant, go free, that none should serve themselves of them any more, then they obeyed, and let them go. 11 But afterward they turned, and caused the servants and the handmaids, whom they had let go free, to return, and brought them into subjection for servants and for handmaids. 12 Therefore the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 13 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; I made a covenant with your fathers in the day that I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondmen, saying, 14 At the end of seven years let ye go every man his brother an Hebrew, which hath been sold unto thee; and when he hath served thee six years, thou shalt let him go free from thee: but your fathers hearkened not unto me, neither inclined their ear. 15 And ye were now turned, and had done right in my sight, in proclaiming liberty every man to his neighbour; and ye had made a covenant before me in the house which is called by my name: 16 But ye turned and polluted my name, and caused every man his servant, and every man his handmaid, whom ye had set at liberty at their pleasure, to return, and brought them into subjection, to be unto you for servants and for handmaids. 17 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Ye have not hearkened unto me, in proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother, and every man to his neighbour: behold, I proclaim a liberty for you, saith the LORD, to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine; and I will make you to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth. 18 And I will give the men that have transgressed my covenant, which have not performed the words of the covenant which they had made before me, when they cut the calf in twain, and passed between the parts thereof, 19 The princes of Judah, and the princes of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, and the priests, and all the people of the land, which passed between the parts of the calf; 20 I will even give them into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of them that

seek their life: and their dead bodies shall be for meat unto the fowls of the heaven, and to the beasts of the earth. 21 And Zedekiah king of Judah and his princes will I give into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of them that seek their life, and into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, which are gone up from you. 22 Behold, I will command, saith the LORD, and cause them to return to this city; and they shall fight against it, and take it, and burn it with fire: and I will make the cities of Judah a desolation without an inhabitant.

### **Hebrews 1:**

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; 4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. 5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? 6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. 7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. 8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. 9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. 10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: 11 They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; 12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail. 13 But to which of the angels said

he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

### **Hebrews 2:**

1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. 2 For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; 3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; 4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will? 5 For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. 6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? 7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: 8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. 10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. 13 And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. 14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise



took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. 17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

### **Hebrews 3:**

1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; 2 Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. 3 For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. 4 For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. 5 And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; 6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. 7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, 8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: 9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. 10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. 11 So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) 12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. 13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; 15 While it is said, To day

if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. 16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. 17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

#### **Hebrews 4:**

1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. 2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. 3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. 4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. 5 And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. 6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: 7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. 8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. 9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. 10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. 11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. 12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. 14 Seeing then that we

have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

### **Hebrews 5:**

1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: 2 Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. 3 And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins. 4 And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. 5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. 6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. 7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; 8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; 10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec. 11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. 12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

### **3.7.2 Central Biblical Paradox**

#### **Faith Alone Plus Good Works**

One of the major paradoxes, in Christianity, that has split the church, is over salvation being by faith alone and at the same time having proof, for your faith, through your changed attitude and behavior. Scripture states that no one is good but God. Man is born spiritually and morally corrupt, in his core self. Even Christians have this problem too. But at the same time, Christians need to prove their faith, by their good work. A simple way to resolve this paradox is to realize, that when we do good, as Christians, that it is a combination of our choice and God's supernatural intervention, that makes this possible.

#### **How Salvation Works**

Just as God is almost entirely responsible for our salvation and all He asks of us to admit we have disobeyed His laws, that we are not deserving of anything, and we accept His authority in our life, the vast length of the separation from God is bridged by God's unconditional grace and forgiveness. God is perfect and cannot tolerate injustice, so He came to earth, in human form (while still remaining God and being perfect in morality), to sacrifice Himself, as Jesus Christ, so that our failures in following His laws and our arrogance, for attempting to try to be good, without God and erecting our own corrupt attempt, at moral standards, in contradiction of God's laws can be overcome (by God's sacrifice of Himself and the taking on the penalty of our misdeeds).

#### **How Both Can Be True**

So the way in which we can do good, as Christians, is almost entirely because of God's grace and very little is because of our effort. We can be good, while fallen, because, as Christians, we are submitting ourselves to Jesus Christ and letting him take control of our lives. Christians can be good and at the same time fallen, because we have not given over all of our life to God, and as we grow, we hand

over more and more aspects of our lives, to our Lord Jesus Christ. A genuine Christian should grow in this way, so that even though he does good things, who he is is still a sinner and a fallen individual. So Christians are both fallen and should have good deeds at the same time. Both are true and denying either one is not Biblical.

### **3.7.3 Advantages and Dangers of Mysticism**

#### **Different Types of Mysticism**

Mysticism is often used very vaguely and has many different meanings for different people. The essential meaning of mysticism that almost everyone can agree upon is mystery. Mysticism can be as different as Evangelical Christianity is from occult religions (occult means hidden and the Bible refers to those who do things ungodly as doing so in a secret way, because they are ashamed of it). There is nothing orthodox or unorthodox about mysticism in Christianity. Modern Christian mysticism seems to be most common in the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches, although modern Evangelical theology can be seen as very mystical as well.

#### **Roman Catholic Approach**

One of the big things that has kept me from becoming Roman Catholic, besides the year long commitment to the process of joining, is that it is common for Roman Catholics to pray to “saints” and there is special reverence for Mary, Mother of Jesus that I cannot find Biblical support for. In Latin America, names of Christian “Saints” are often used in the practice of pre-Christian animism and have confused many people as to what Christianity is all about. Christianity is not like the ancient Roman practice of just renaming all the Greek gods. The Christian God is totally different in values/morality, position of authority, attributes, relationship to people, and almost everything else that constitutes a given spirit or person.

### **Eastern Orthodox Approach**

I like the importance placed in the Eastern Orthodox church on the Jesus Prayer and on the mystical instead of rational approach to Scripture. The idea that one can experience a spiritual connection with God, beyond what is described in the Bible, of how we are instructed how to relate to God, is hard for me to reconcile with scripture. I know that this practice is not the same as a person becoming one with God, in the sense that they achieve the same level spiritually, but I think it is problematic and I think that it requires too elaborate an explanation, that could so easily cause confusion, to people who are spiritually immature.

### **Paradox and Faith**

Paradox is one of the major philosophical concepts of mysticism. The way in which I see the Bible as mystical relates more to how Kierkegaard sees the paradox of Jesus Christ's existence and our relationship with Him as was described in the new Testament, especially in the Apostle Paul's letters to the various early Christian churches. The belief that Jesus was both man and God is a paradox and must be accepted by faith, not reason and in our relationship with God should be one of humility, in reverence to the reality, of who God is and our proper response to who He is.

### **Christ and Salvation**

So important is humility, that I agree with Kierkegaard, that when we are farthest from God, because of sin, we are actually closer, by way of grace. The most important thing in faith is humility, as that is what God wants most of us, because that is essentially what the process of repentance and salvation is about. God realized that no one of us could ever be anywhere good enough to earn our way to God, so Jesus decided to save us by grace and to forgive our sins by his own sacrifice. In salvation, God's grace and sacrifice reach out to us and all we do is accept his offer with the appropriate respect.

### **Our Relationship with God**

This isn't to say that sin is preferable, but only that our obvious failure increases our realization of how much we rely upon God's grace. And humility before God is not a matter of debasement, but really just an acceptance of a reality we can only partially imagine and understand more fully by faith and through God's grace. Think about it this way: even though every human is equal in worth, because God both created and redeemed all of us on His own; any number compared to infinity is zero. No matter how great we are or how moral we are, we are nothing in comparison to the Christian God. God is not a mere spirit, but rather is infinitely greater than anything that could possibly be created or imagined by Him or anyone else over all of eternity.

## **3.8 Religion and Politics**

### **3.8.1 Losing Our Souls**

#### **What We are Taught**

We are taught to specialize in narrow way of thinking and compartmentalize religion, science, history, and art. We are taught to substitute facts for truth and math for faith. We substitute current event soundbites for our understanding of history and substitute fashion for our vision of art. We lose our souls and learn to compromise in public schools. The youthful enthusiasm we have for new ideas and change is directed towards conformance to our peers and the trends started by our manufacture heroes: musicians, actors, models, and athletes.

#### **What We Believe**

All our desires to resist what our parents taught us are channeled into an addiction to consumption and materialism. We challenge ourselves in how much alike we can be and compete for the attention of those who epitomize a narrow and unrealistic view of the ideal opposite sex. We

seek our happiness through our consumption of entertainment, that we passively view, without critical thought or consideration of the effort involved in its creation. We just expect to live the fairy tale life, that we see in the movies and music videos, even though the rich and famous are not satisfied by that either.

### **3.8.2 Why America Needs God**

#### **We Need Values**

America needs God now more than ever. America needs the Christian God, who is superior to the other gods, because God provides all the things we need to have values and behave morally. A code of ethics tells us what we must do, religion gives us a reason why, and the Christian God gives us the power to do so. We in America are so enamored by our games and entertainment pastimes, that we have forgotten that the most important aspect of life is spiritual. We are not going to be able to be rich, while trading our economic, political, and social future, for a fun time now.

#### **At the End of our Wealth**

We have spent all we can and borrowed as much as others will lend us. We have gone through: our natural resources, our financial resources, and our human resources. We have nothing to sell the rest of the world, that they want or need and we cannot afford to buy, what the rest of the world wants to sell us. We are bringing down the entire world economy and the third world will be hit hardest of all. We need to understand what position we are in today, to get the motivation to improve ourselves, so that we can have a future.

#### **There is Much Work to Do**

We need to do a lot of things at once. We need to start investing in our future: by getting more education, by learning to save money, by learning manners and how to treat



people fairly, and we don't have time to waste. At the same time our country needs to: stop fighting expensive wars overseas that will never be resolved, stop wasting our limited natural resources like coal and oil before we have none left, we need to rebuild our infrastructure, invest in educating people in things that will get them jobs that pay enough to support a family, secure our borders so that criminals don't get in and out of the country without our knowledge or consent, find a way to constructively employ those who are unemployed and not able to find new jobs, and clean up our environment and build infrastructure to deal with the economic, social, and technological problems caused by our over consumption of natural resources.

### **We Need to Conserve**

Our economy has permanently contracted, while our population continues to grow and our grandparents have lost their retirement savings and are now trying to find jobs as well. We need to find a way to continue to advance technology, while, at the same time, still keeping jobs for the average person. It does no good to save so much money on plastic junk, when we have only been able to do so at the cost of our jobs. We need to find a way to get by with: less energy, less money, and less technology. We need to revert to a much earlier century in our use of energy, or else we will have a mass die off of the human population.

## **3.8.3 The Church and Education**

### **History of Scholarship**

The Church in its various flavors has traditionally been at the forefront of education: the Renaissance and the Cyrillic family of Slavic languages were started by Eastern Orthodox monks, the golden age of the Islamic world was started by Jacobite and Nestorian Christians, and the Catholic church helped preserve and advance the written works of the pagan and Christian worlds for centuries.

When Protestant Christians went overseas as missionaries, they translated the Bible into the native language of the local people and even created written languages, if there was none to start with, and founded some of the best educational systems, in the countries they had missions and they are still alive today.

### **Why Christians have Rejected Academia**

The rise of the Evangelical branch of Christianity seems to not place the same emphasis on education. Some of the major reasons may be that: a lot of the academic world is trying to push the idea that white Christian males caused all the world's problems, many Christians in the academic community are trying to push a Christianity that is not Biblical in its theology, academia constantly argues against all of the miracles in the Bible by trying to explain them scientifically, and academia seems to have accepted Darwinian evolution, life being formed by chance, and an old Earth theory as a gospel truth.

### **Christians Should do What is Right**

But my belief is that we should only oppose things that are wrong morally or contrary to the Bible, so I think the push for Christians should be to do what is right, instead of just doing the opposite of the unbelievers. Just because many pagans are trying to help the environment doesn't mean that Christians shouldn't do so as well. Just because atheists dominate Science doesn't mean that we should give up on creationism. Just because many in academia have argued against imperialism and colonialism doesn't mean that Christians cannot embrace this idea as well, but explain how it is rationalism and a lack of spiritual values that caused this problem to get exponentially worse.

### **Christians Need to Take a Stand**

Christians need to bring Biblical values back into the educational system and fight for the future of our culture. Christians should not be afraid to challenge secu-

lar beliefs, just because they are popular and assumed to be true by the majority. Christians need to show how academia's beliefs in things that contradict the Bible are not the result of letting the evidence lead to the truth, but rather that much of academia just assumes things to be true, because they don't have the moral fiber, to stand up for the truth. Christians should not be afraid to have an opinion or to use Scripture to support their views, in the non-Christian world.

### **The Battle is Spiritual**

Christians need not fear that they will be rejected or lose funding, because God will back them up. Christians need to realize that the future of education of young people is a spiritual battle and when they find opposition to realize that there are spiritual forces behind this. The best thing Christians can do is keep the right attitude before God, pray for God's will to be done, live as moral a life as possible, and keep reading Scripture for answers to our problems. The only thing Christians should be afraid of as being able to defeat them is their own addiction to sin and unwillingness to submit their lives to God. The real battle is in our minds and our greatest enemy is our carnal self.

## **3.9 Secular Philosophy**

### **3.9.1 Rationalism in Philosophy**

#### **What is Rational?**

People often use the word "rational" in contemporary speech, to describe doing things that are sensical and well thought out, but rational means something completely different in philosophy. Rational philosophy is often described as diametrically opposed to faith or mysticism. Having faith in something, if it is real, makes sense, but is not always called "rational," because that word in philosophy is usually used to refer to using empirical evidence, to support a

claim about something, that can be tested in a lab and is part of the natural world.

### **Spirituality is Worthwhile**

A lot of things in life cannot be proven Scientifically, so that they are sometimes referred to as irrational. This is because the spiritual aspects of life can only be fully understood by faith, in what is not a physical or mathematically understood reality. There are a number of reasons for believing in spiritual things: values like love or honor, the motivation to do something because it is believed to be the right thing, and choosing to sacrifice yourself for something greater are all spiritual things, cannot be explained through Science, but are still very important.

### **3.9.2 Do Atheists Have Values?**

#### **Definition of Atheism**

Atheism basically mean not theistic or not believing in a God or other deities. Most of the people that do not believe in God in the West probably are doing so, because they don't want to follow rules. You could call that a value too, because values or ethics can be any system that is consistent. For instance, Christianity by the example of Christ has the values of humility and compassion.

#### **Nietzsche**

Nietzsche has a very different set of ethics. Nietzschean ethics are based on the pre-Socratic philosophers (the Greek philosophers before Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle) and Greek paganism. Nietzsche values strength and beauty primarily and he is very passionate and committed to his beliefs. If the majority of Christians had the same passion for their beliefs, then there would be much less to criticize in how Christianity is commonly practiced today. I share with Nietzsche the idea that I do not want any followers.

## **Anarchy**

For people that do not want to follow any rules are often categorized as Anarchists, but I think the real issue that defines Anarchists, from others who reject the establishment, is that Anarchists do not respect private property, because they feel it was gained through deception and violence. I am not an Anarchist, because I am Christian and the Bible has rules against destruction of private property, even if it is gained dishonestly.

## **Major Atheistic Philosophies**

There are many other Atheistic codes of ethics or complete philosophies including: Existentialism, Postmodernism, and the most famous of all – the Enlightenment. The Enlightenment was based on the ideas of the major Greek and Roman philosophers and culture and was about the free exchange of ideas and the idea of a culture and a government founded on reason and the rule of law, instead of on faith and obedience. Rousseau believed that people were good naturally and that evil was a learned behavior. The biggest new ideas of the Enlightenment were Science and the Social Sciences.

## **The Enlightenment**

Hegel was famous for uniting the two major schools of the Enlightenment, called British Empiricism and Continental Rationalism. Empiricism was based on using empirical evidence to find truth and Rationalism was based on the idea that there is an “a priori” statement that everything else is discovered from. Descartes’ a priori was “I think therefore I am”. Hegel based his ideas on an elaborate system that made extensive use of the concept of paradox. Hegel’s philosophy was part of a school called phenomenology, which is very hard to explain or understand.

## **Existentialism**

Kierkegaard and later Existentialists usually agreed that they were against any kind of system used to explain

the unique qualities of human being (or existence). Existentialism started out Christian, but some of the most famous Existentialists like Sartre and Heidegger were Atheists. Postmodernism is a reaction against the Enlightenment's belief in absolute values, but still embraces Science and reason, as the source of truth.

### **Variations of Atheism**

Atheism is also a very general category, that involves many variations on the lack of belief in a God (a belief in a God or gods is also known as religion). There are at least dozens of variations and the most common is the Agnostic variation, which people claim, who have not decided whether or not they believe in God. Science is the best known philosophy which is designed on a kind of Agnosticism towards evidence and reason.

## **3.10 Religious Issues**

### **3.10.1 Philosophy and Religion**

#### **Philosophy is Going Beyond the Basics**

So you already have a religion and you wonder why you need philosophy. Philosophy is to religion, as math is to science. You can be born again and have eternal life without learning much about philosophy, but if you are the kind of person that just does the basic to get by, than all means don't bother. You don't even have to be literate, to be born again. Many people get by without the most basic understanding of math or science.

#### **Philosophy is not for Most People**

Not everyone has time to learn about everything in depth. Philosophy is not for everyone. Society needs many more engineers, than it needs philosophers. But if you don't want to learn about philosophy, because you already have done the bare minimum for you religion, then you might at least want to re-examine your attitude, as it will not

get you far in life. Doing the bare minimum will keep you at a boring, unfulfilling job, for the rest of your life.

### **What Kind of Person are You?**

Philosophy is for those who want to get more out of life, for people who know life is short and they want to discover what is most important in life. They want to understand why things are the way they are and what they can do to change things. Philosophy is for people who cannot live life without examining themselves and their place in the universe. Philosophy is for people who cannot be satisfied, by a one sentence answer. Philosophy is for people who enjoy thinking and learning.

#### **3.10.2 Popular Misconceptions about Philosophy and Religion**

Just as with any other topic, in philosophy and religion the same word can have more than one meaning and most people have an inaccurate perception of the way things work. Just like in computers, the popular sound bites are based on people writing about something that they have not read enough about and many people who do know enough about it have agendas and are trying to push a certain viewpoint (which they have no problem compromising the facts in order to do so).

The bulk of my books are used to explain how different things like Christianity, Existentialism, Taoism, Mysticism, Paradox, Liberal, and other terms are used incorrectly or have alternate meanings (that are different from what people imagine them to have). These inaccurate conceptions are the result of faulty common knowledge and the oversimplification of writers.

One very widely held misconception about Eastern Philosophy from the Christian community is that it is somehow related to the New Age movement and so is incompatible with Christianity. The reality is that Christianity has already been synchronized with Greek Philosophy and Paganism, which has kept the Christian community divided, because of a lack of understanding of para-

dox (which is the basis for most Biblical theology). The New Age movement has taken things from every religion and has taken as much from Christianity as it has from Eastern Philosophy and what it is has taken from Eastern philosophy does not include the ethics or emphasis on discipline, which are the most important parts.

### **3.10.3 The Kind of Christianity I am Promoting**

I do not wish to change the theology of Christianity: I take both sides of most divisions in the church in theology. I believe that Jesus was a man and eternally is God, that salvation is by faith alone and still by faith plus works, that Free Will and Predestination are both true, and that Jesus came at the end of the 1st century AD and will come in the future at the same “time”.

What I do wish to change is everything else. I do wish to change the philosophical, political, artistic, generational, regional, organizational, and perceived opposition aspects of the way Christianity is practiced in America. Philosophically, I wish to bring the church in America to a mystical and existential Christian approach to Scripture. Politically, I wish to bring a fiscally liberal approach to Scripture to the church in America. Artistically, I wish to bring a multi-cultural approach to Scripture to the church in America. Generationally, I wish to move the focus onto the generations succeeding the baby boomers, to the church in America. Regionally, I wish to bring a developing world center of gravity and approach to Scripture to the church in America. Organizationally, I wish to have the church in America organized by network, instead of top down and linear. Finally, I wish to move the focus on threats to the church from Atheism to Paganism.

### **3.10.4 Another Perspective on Orthodoxy**

For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to  
preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words,  
lest the cross of Christ should be made of none  
effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them



that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

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Some would say that I have an more open view of what is acceptable for Christians, but in reality I just have a different view of what is orthodox and Biblical and what is not. I am really hesitant to learn anything

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<sup>11</sup>1 Corinthians 1:17-31

about spiritual warfare or the occult especially from non-Christian sources.

One of the reasons why I have studied about Asia so predominantly is because I am interested in other cultures but I didn't want to get involved in or learn too much about Animism which is an important part of many ancient African and Latin American cultures.

I also believe that the Church has been synchronistic in its use of Greek philosophy and religion in the development of Christian doctrines and the the study of Scripture. The warning against that comes from the first part of 1 Corinthians before the Apostle Paul starts to talk about sex and is quoted above.

The Bible is fundamentally Asian and makes more sense and is more accurately interpreted if thought of from a traditional Asian worldview. A good way to get this point of view is by reading classical texts in Asian philosophy, literature, and religion.

I also do my best to avoid learning about mythology other than the specifically Christian-based Tolkien view on English mythology.

### **3.10.5 Rich White Men**

Some people have assumed when I refer to "rich white men" that I am talking about community leaders or small business men. This is totally not true. When I talk about "rich white men", I am referring to, at the most, a few thousand people who control most of what goes on in the world. I am referring to organizations like the Council on Foreign Relations or 33rd degree Freemasons and similar groups.

I believe that these kinds of secret societies are pushing for a one world government and are pushing the ideology of the New Age movement and are supportive of an occult worldview. This sounds like a conspiracy theory, but there is little secret about these groups' objectives.

I believe that the Theosophy movement was one of the early organized efforts to bring about these objectives. I believe that this is also a white male dominated group who are principally English and American in nationality.

The methods of these groups consist mostly of starting big wars to shift the balance of power in the world and have infiltrated public education and the media to promote the occult and a one world dictatorship. I believe that all of the national leaders of most world powers and anyone else who has a chance at winning an election at that level are supportive of these objectives or realize that they do not have the power to work against this movement.

Either way, no one consequential in world politics is working against this effort and many are willing participants. I do not believe that we really have a democracy in America, but rather that people's souls are owned by the media and public education, so that there is no effective resistance to this effort politically, economically, or socially.

## **3.11 The Bible and Making Decisions**

### **3.11.1 What Defines Us**

It is common to see human development as either or both nature and/or nurture, but the most important factor that influences your quality of life is your decisions. One of the reasons why Existentialism is so relevant today and is so universally important is that the true thing that defines humanity is free will. Our wills are the most important elements of what defines what is important in life and form the most integral part of our identity. We actually start out as a mostly blank slate, but we form our individuality by the choices we make.

This doesn't change the fact that we are not born into equally difficult circumstances nor are we born with equal abilities or health, but we can choose the direction that we take in life, even if we cannot determine our future to the extent we hope for. Many people start with some great limitations in life, but because of the choices they make, they become a genuine person that is trying to make the world a better place. No matter how wealthy or

how popular a family you are born into, if you make bad choices, you will end up in a bad place and your life will get worse and worse.

Even if you came from a bad home or had parents who didn't learn from their parents how to raise kids, you can improve your attitude and the kind of person you are. Whether you are wealthy or not does not make your life better if you are not able to be happy when you are alone. No matter how many rules you get a way with breaking or how lenient society becomes in enforcing laws, your true freedom comes from your ability to make up your own mind about who you want to be.

### **3.11.2 What Does Freedom Mean?**

#### **An Summary of the Biblical Concept**

Most people think of freedom as the ability to choose what they want to do. The irony is that most people are driven by the desire for pleasure, actually become addicted to sin, and end up destroying themselves, as a direct result of their free choices. It is ironic that so many Americans died for their citizens to experience freedom and yet most Americans are so desperate to belong to a social group that they make the exact same choices as everyone else.

As you can now see, theoretical freedom is not the same as real freedom, because our greatest enemy is ourselves and our own selfishness. The Bible talks about how we are slaves to our own greed and that to be free is to be adopted back in to God's family, being reconciled with our Creator, and being forgiven for our mistakes. Freedom is only achieved by understanding the concept of sin, realizing that some choices lead to destruction, and then accept that we must submit ourselves to Christ in order to be truly free.

We have one of two masters: we serve money (the devil) or God. We cannot keep from choosing sides. If we don't make the decision to repent of our sins, then we are making the choice to continue in sin and we will be in servitude to a master, who want us to have no freedom. There are many times in which there are multiple

decisions we can make and none are bad decisions. Life does not allow simple choices very often and even simple choices can be hard to make. But for us to know the truth about our relationship with God is the starting point in which we can fight against our greatest enemy, our stubborn will.

Being free is related to being humble. This is a paradox that few understand. There is no freedom in an addiction and if we live to satisfy our desires, we will never be happy or at peace with ourselves. The only path to freedom must begin with acknowledging that we cannot be free, with no commitment to God. Being free is really about accepting that we cannot be happy on our own. We need to go back to the relationship we have all been estranged from. We must come back to our Heavenly Father with respect and humility. Grace is the route to freedom and it is given freely. We just need to accept the reality as it is.

### **Passages that Talk about Biblical Freedom**

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

12

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

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<sup>12</sup>Psalm 51:12

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of

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<sup>13</sup>John 8:31-36

sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

14

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal

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<sup>14</sup>Romans 6

mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan



within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor princi-

palities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

15

### **3.11.3 The Biblical Approach to Suffering**

#### **Western vs. Non-Western Attitudes**

To many Western Christians, passages about prophecy and about how suffering builds character make God seem like a sadist or a masochist. But in Africa, Revelations is the most popular book of the Bible. Why do different cultures see things so differently and how can talking about suffering be positive?

#### **Who is Responsible?**

I must first assure to you that God is not responsible for our suffering and neither is the devil. God restricts what the devil can do to us (like we read about in Job) because God wants us to be responsible for our actions and have a free will, so that we can choose our own destiny. The part that doesn't make sense is that good people suffer because of what bad people have done and the bad people often live without any ill effects.

#### **Encouraging People Who Suffer**

So the point of talking about the suffering we will have is not to say that it is worthwhile nor even ok that we suffer, nor is to scare us about the future, but rather to communicate to those who are already are suffering, that it is not for nothing. In other words, it is to encourage us. I think, for many in the West, we are relatively rich and do not suffer physically anywhere near like it is in the Third World, so we misinterpret prophecy about the future as some sort of punishment, for us who believe.

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<sup>15</sup>Romans 8

## **Environment and Prophecy**

We are learning now about the world, things that were prophesied to happen at the end of time. These birth pains are already occurring, which we label as environmental disasters. These we have caused, because of our own lust, selfishness, and sin.

## **Understanding God's People**

This goes back again to what it means to be a Christian and what group of people Christ has targeted for His Kingdom: Christianity is a religion for the materially poor and the spiritually rich. We will never understand who Christ is, until we understand what the majority of the Christians in the world, throughout history or even now, are like in their circumstances and in their spiritual make up.

### **3.11.4 Heaven, Eternity, and God**

#### **Eternal Perspective**

I have thought about what Heaven might be like, for a long time. Time would obviously be different, if we are to live forever, so that we don't need to have an endless list of things to do. I think we see part of this in Taoist writings, and when we get very good at something, we are in the process of performing the action, and we are in the moment or in the flow, time goes by at a different rate. Compare kissing your girlfriend or wife with getting your hand burned: in one situation, time goes by faster than in the other situation. I think one of the reasons why God still sees us as sinners, even if we have repented many years ago, is because for God, everything happens at once (this is really a vast oversimplification), so God sees everything we have ever done as the real us, instead of what we are at an given time.

#### **Roses and Heaven**

I took some close-up pictures of some roses, while visiting my parents, and they were so perfect and beautiful that

they gave my a feeling of peace, joy, and awe. The roses remind me of how I imagine Heaven. At the end of the Book of Revelations, Heaven is described as a golden city, with precious jewels and a garden. I used to think that this seemed inconsistent with how God speaks in support of values, instead of material wealth, throughout the rest of the Bible.

### **Indian Mystic Poets**

But I remember reading some of the writings of South Indian Mystic Poets and how there is a branch of the Bahkti Hindu movement (this is a movement based on the devotional path of Hinduism) that believes God cannot be explained and so can only be talked about in mystical terms. This school believes similarly to how Moses Maimonides talked about how God can only be described in terms of what He is not, instead of what He is. God is not finite, He is not mortal, He is not defeatable, God was not created, and He is not limited by anything. The Indian mystic poets that believe this way, include some of the most famous: Kabir, Guru Nanak, and Meera. But this other school of the Bhakti movement understands God as a celebration and that living a spiritual life is one of splendor and rich in spiritual qualities.

### **Understanding Revelations**

Revelations starts out as a very scary horror film or nightmare scenario. We read this book of the Bible and are terrified of ever having to live through this, but throughout most of the history of the Church, Christians have found comfort in reading Revelations, because it gives them hope. Have you ever gone on a camping trip? How did you feel when you came home, took a shower and then slept in your own bed? Have you ever had a hard workout on a very hot day? What did you feel when you got to drink a cold drink? That is what Heaven is like. Heaven is about comforting us after all we have suffered in our lives. We will truly appreciate it, after all we have been through in our lives.

### **3.11.5 What We Should Do**

Many Christians believe that there is one specific job they must do and that they need to figure this out or they are not following God's will. If you want to know what God expects of us, read the Psalms and the Prophets. God does not require us to know anything that is not in the Bible. It is not likely that God or an angel will come and give you a vision of an exact job God wants you to do, but if God wants you to do something, you will have no doubts about it. All roads will lead to it and you will be reminded of it all the time, no matter what you do or where you go.

God's will for us is not something hard to figure out. God also treats us all equally. God wants us to be a certain kind of person, rather than doing a certain kind of job. God wants us to have a good attitude and to try to follow in Christ's example of humility and compassion. The qualities God want us to emulate are abstract values, not specific actions.

Jesus says it with the Sermon on the Mount and the Golden Rule. He says the same in the Ten Commandments of the Old Testament. What God wants you to do is to use your natural gifts with a passion for who Jesus is. If you believe for a long time that something is important and the Bible doesn't speak against it, then if you do it, then you are following God.

## **3.12 Thinking Long Term**

### **3.12.1 My Perspective**

Although I believe that it is impossible for anyone to be objective but God, I can assure you that I have no financial interests in anything I write on, because I am a disabled veteran and make all my money because of my disability, regardless of what I do or do not do, and I cannot receive extra money from any other source and keep my pension. This website has never made me any money nor ever will (although it has cost me a lot) and all my books are sold at cost.

When you read my books, you will realize that I am not interested in pushing any particular ideology, except for people to think for themselves and think more broadly. I believe and practice everything I say and my main aim is to improve the quality of life of people and animals. I also do not write anything unless I already have done a great deal more research than most people would before writing about any particular topic.

Another unique element of my perspective is that I see the world as bigger than myself. If some change in the world would make other people's lives better at the expense of or with no direct effect to me, I would welcome it.

Take for example software and computers. Although I don't play games on computers, I still see the value in it, because games accelerate the investment in the graphical processing power of computer chips, which will in turn allow me to improve the quality of my graphics. Even though I don't have an iPod, people buying iPods makes my computer experience and what I can create with it better, because Apple can invest more in computers. The success of mobile computing, although I am not very interested in that in itself, is good because it gets more standards compliant browsers out there, that allow web sites to be designed easier and with more features.

I also see things from a longer period of time than most people. Governments think the farthest ahead and that is only a generation at the most. I am planning hundreds of years ahead of time. I don't form my perspective on what exists currently, but on what could be very important long into the future. That is why I think trends in society that last for many years are very important to consider (because they will shape the kind of society we will have in the future).

I also have decided to focus on things that I am good at and a things that won't be done by other people. I realize that the world needs many more engineers than philosophers. I could make a great contribution to the world designing software, but if I didn't some one else would. If I don't try to prepare people for the future, no one else will. I can afford to pay for someone to clean my

house, cook my food, and write the software I use, but I couldn't afford to pay someone to do my work, or even the most basic parts, to my standards with the amount of money I have.

### **3.12.2 My Vision of the Future**

I see our future as a challenge and an opportunity. To think that we will just give up, because life becomes very different or more difficult is a response that doesn't comprehend the extent of human creativity and ignores the reality of a benevolent Creator, who has proven His desire to help transform us and the society we live in.

People have lived throughout most of history at a level of basic subsistence and we have only had fossil fuels, electricity, and modern plumbing for a very short period of this history. While the small group of people that controls most that goes on in the world has made some decisions that were not made within the context of potential long term technological, political, economic and social evolution and adaptation, we are not going to be totally annihilated.

Now is the time to rethink what is important in life and what our priorities should be. Before we get into major engineering projects which are costly in time and money, we need to work on the kind of expectations we need to have of our children to prepare them physically, emotionally, morally, and spiritually for a world we cannot yet imagine.

We need to learn to do more with less, develop disciplined habits in spending, physical fitness, and energy use. We need to rethink whether or not we need each and every thing we spend time or money on. Things are changing fast and will accelerate, so we need to start planning what we want life to be like, before all our decisions are made for us. Define your future instead of just passively accepting what others have decided for you.

### 3.12.3 Patience

Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

16

It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

17

But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

18

But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

19

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

20

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

21

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<sup>16</sup>Ecclesiastes 7:8

<sup>17</sup>Lamentations 3:26

<sup>18</sup>Luke 8:15

<sup>19</sup>Romans 8:25

<sup>20</sup>Romans 15:4

<sup>21</sup>Galatians 6:9



That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all  
pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and  
increasing in the knowledge of God;

22

Remembering without ceasing your work of  
faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope  
in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God  
and our Father;

23

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that  
are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support  
the weak, be patient toward all men.

24

And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of  
God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

25

That ye be not slothful, but followers of them  
who through faith and patience inherit the  
promises.

26

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye  
have done the will of God, ye might receive the  
promise.

27

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<sup>22</sup>Colossians 1:10

<sup>23</sup>1 Thessalonians 1:3

<sup>24</sup>1 Thessalonians 5:14

<sup>25</sup>2 Thessalonians 3:5

<sup>26</sup>Hebrews 6:12

<sup>27</sup>Hebrews 10:36

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

28

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

29

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

30

### 3.12.4 Perseverance

Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually.

31

The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.

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<sup>28</sup>Hebrews 12:1

<sup>29</sup>James 1:3-4

<sup>30</sup>2 Peter 1:5-8

<sup>31</sup>1 Chronicles 16:11

32

Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

33

Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

34

The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

35

And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

36

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

37

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

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<sup>32</sup>Job 17:9

<sup>33</sup>Psalms 37:24

<sup>34</sup>Psalms 73:24

<sup>35</sup>Psalms 138:8

<sup>36</sup>Jeremiah 32:40

<sup>37</sup>Matthew 10:22

38

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

39

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

40

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.

41

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He

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<sup>38</sup>Luke 22:31-32

<sup>39</sup>John 6:37-40

<sup>40</sup>John 8:31-32

<sup>41</sup>John 10:27-30

that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

42

Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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<sup>42</sup>John 15:4-9

43

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

44

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

45

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

46

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

47

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

48

### 3.12.5 Ways to Develop Discipline

1. Find role models who are disciplined
2. Pray for God's help to become disciplined
3. Read the Bible

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<sup>43</sup>Romans 8:30-39

<sup>44</sup>1 Corinthians 15:38

<sup>45</sup>Ephesians 6:18

<sup>46</sup>Hebrews 10:23

<sup>47</sup>James 1:4

<sup>48</sup>1 Peter 5:8

4. Fast or go on a diet
5. Save money or give to charity
6. Volunteer
7. Learn a foreign human or computer language
8. Learn a martial art
9. Meditate
10. Exercise consistently
11. Do anything constructive for a long time
12. Even developing a schedule is a start

## **3.13 Learn to be Kind and Patient**

### **3.13.1 First, Learn from Others' Experiences**

1. Find others to emulate who are kind
2. Pray for God's help to become kind
3. Read the Bible

### **3.13.2 Second, Broaden your Reading**

1. Read about a wide range of history
2. Read a variety of ethical writings
3. Read up on common manners
4. Read biographies of famous people

### **3.13.3 Third, Get your own Unique Perspective**

1. Learn your family history
2. Write your own autobiography
3. Discover or develop your own beliefs
4. Understand why you think the way you do

### **3.13.4 Fourth, Understand that Differences are OK**

1. Read things that conflict with your beliefs
2. Find similarities to your beliefs in these writings
3. Try to understand the reason why others think differently

### **3.13.5 Fifth, Learn Communication Skills**

1. Understand how you say things is as important as what you say
2. Learn to be direct
3. Learn how to read body language
4. Learn to evaluate situations from an emotional perspective

### **3.13.6 Sixth, Learn to Think Empathetically Instead of Purely Fact Based**

1. Read writings of famous mystics
2. Read poetry
3. Practice being kind to animals
4. Learn to be subtle
5. Listen to highly sensitive people



### **3.13.7 Seventh, Learn from Experience**

1. Spend time around people that are hard to get along with
2. Spend time around people in pain
3. Volunteer to help those who are disabled
4. Listen to what others say, when you disagree with them

## **3.14 Being Creative and Helping Others**

### **3.14.1 How to Think Creatively**

#### **Get Ready to Think**

1. Get plenty of sleep
2. Give yourself as much time as possible
3. Thoroughly research the topic
4. Don't limit your options unnecessarily

#### **Think About the Idea**

1. Prioritize what is most important
2. Be willing to make trade-offs
3. Discuss the idea with other people
4. Take a lot of time to think about it

#### **Try the Idea Out**

1. Make controlled experiments
2. Roll out your idea in stages

### **Get Ready for Future Ideas**

1. Be willing to try new things
2. Practice thinking differently
3. Take calculated risks
4. Try things you haven't before

### **3.14.2 Creativity and Saving Money**

#### **Living Without a Car**

One of the big ways to save money is to not own a car. This involves a real sacrifice and can be isolating. It is not for everyone. The alternatives are most commonly: taking the bus, walking, riding a bike, and taking a taxi. Each has its own purpose and more than one can be used, based on the situation.

#### **What Riding the Bus is Like**

If you have good bus service in your town, this could be a solution by itself. One of the things to plan for is to live at a major intersection in town, so that they are unlikely to cut your stop or route, because, at least in my town, they make service cuts every year. One of the things about the bus, at least in my town, is that a bus may not come at the scheduled frequency (they are never on time), if the bus is full or they are behind schedule, so you have to allow extra time. Another thing that is frustrating is dealing with the drivers, who: will often not stop at the right stops, will want you to hurry on the bus at some times and then at others make you wait for people to get off (that you can't see), and they often don't give you time to sit down or to get off before driving off. In my town, the service is good weekday mornings and afternoons. You also cannot carry big packages or luggage, drink or eat, or listen to load music on the bus.

### **Bus People**

The people on the bus can be frustrating too. Most people who ride the bus do so, because they cannot afford any other options. Most people who ride the bus are: kids, the elderly, people with various disabilities like those in wheelchairs and the developmentally disabled, the poor, and people who have lost their licenses to drive, due to reckless or drunk driving. Many people on the bus have bad manners and have a hard time getting along with others. Usually there is at least one person who is very annoying, who does something like: making loud repetitive sounds, staring at you, going on and on with irrational ramblings, or trying to start a conversation with you or the bus driver. I try not to make eye contact with anyone and avoid smiling, which helps keep people from harassing me directly. I also avoid certain times and routes to avoid certain annoying people.

### **Alternatives to the Bus**

If I want to get anywhere on the weekends, I either walk or take a taxi. I have tried using a taxi, to get to a meeting, at a certain time, but I found that, if you call them too early, they forget and that not very many taxis are running on the weekend. There must not be much competition for taxis in my town. Riding a bike around town works well, in my town, because of all the bike paths, but you will have to find somewhere to put your bike (there isn't much room on the bus for them) and you should avoid getting a nice one as they are often stolen. Riding a bike in the rain is not fun either and it is hard to carry packages.

### **Re-Occurring Expenses**

Another big way to save money is to reduce re-occurring expenses. Some of these include cell phones, cable TV, Internet, games, movies, music, computers, software, and eating out. Not everyone needs every electronic device out there. People survived fine for thousand of year without cell phones. Most people do not have much time to

watch cable TV, so for most people that is a bad investment. You can get the entire season of a show on DVD or on iTunes and just see what you want, without paying, for all the stuff you never watch on cable. The Internet is vital for most people, but check the rates from different companies and different plans, not usually advertised, and you can also get free wireless network, at many different businesses in many areas, like restaurants and coffee shops. You can save money on music, by just buying the songs you want on iTunes, instead of purchasing an entire CD, for one song. You can also save money, by buying movies on iTunes, rather than buying them on DVD or Blu-ray. Many people can actually save money on a Mac, due to not having to pay lots of money for constant repairs, because Macs last longer, and Macs have much higher resale value. You can save on software, by using open source software, instead of paying hundreds of dollars, for Microsoft and Adobe titles.

### **3.14.3 Theft or Charity**

#### **The Meaning of Free Culture**

Free culture is a movement primarily Internet based and is an information era application of a much older reason for publishing. Most alive today people can't remember what it was like before people created art, music, literature and that kind of thing, without the primary reason being to make money. In fact, most of the intellectual property created in the last hundred years is also not worth the same as what was created before.

Compare, for instance, sacred religious texts with popular culture creations like Disney movies. Would you more likely risk your life for the Bible or for the animated Cinderella? I believe that there is a direct connection between why something is created and its value.

#### **The Situation Today**

Today, most things that are created for profit are not very high quality. Think of a recent movie or song that you

thought would be worth preserving. The reason for this is that there is a whole network of powerful people, who act as gatekeepers of information. To reach a wide audience, you need an advertising campaign, which requires an investment of a tremendous amount of money.

### **Loss of Trust**

The Internet is making it much cheaper to publish information and therefore, we can reach each other, instead of having to get approved by a magazine editor or TV news producer. People used to trust their newspapers and TV reporters, before my generation which has seen a tremendous number of people in the establishment caught, pushing their own agendas and publishing for the advertisers, instead of for the readers. The thing that people get really upset about is when the journalists keep on supporting the establishment, no matter what it does and then, at the same time, claim to be objective.

### **Foreign Workers**

Another thing that is lowering the bar to getting published is that people in third world countries and major Asian nations are now taking over the jobs of American journalists, engineers, and managers. Now one seemed to care when the blue collar workers lost their jobs, because we didn't mind people of color doing menial labor, but when they moved up the ladder to white collar jobs, now everybody gets defensive and cries out about the injustice. If it is ok for factory workers to lose their jobs to foreign workers, it is also ok for white collar workers to lose their jobs as well (and it is about time).

### **The Best Way to Fight**

Many people's response is to steal songs and movies, because they don't find them worth the cost. But the problem with this is we just end up with less control over our media purchases and many people go to jail. The better way to fight the establishment and their control over our

information, is to produce the content ourselves. I cannot single handedly provide enough information for everyone in America, but together with hundreds of thousand of others, we can cover a lot of ground.

When someone got a degree in a field, they used to have a certain level of competence, but the professional community has lowered its standards of both integrity and work ethic, to the point that diplomas don't mean much anymore. We may not be able to match the resources to do the same amount of research, but we can contribute without a profit motive, which makes us much more "objective".

### **Serve your Country**

We need to have a free culture in America worth the sacrifices of our military service members and other Department of Defense and State Department workers. Especially as I am a veteran, I believe that it is very important that our military doesn't become an arm of corporations and their desire to get more money and power, at the expense of the average citizen. I do not believe that Disney movies, the NASCAR, or the Wall Street Journal are worth dying for. So if you want to help America and don't want to get burned alive and have permanent brain damage from serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, you will serve your country very well at home, by making sure we have something in America worth sacrificing lives for.

## **3.14.4 Reasons to Create Rather than Consume**

### **Help Yourself**

- you can promote the things you have interests in
- you can be in control
- you can become famous
- if you want something done right, do it yourself
- you know best what you like

- you can pass the time
- you can get a better job
- you can create a market for your job
- you can create things for advertising

**Enhance Your Self-Esteem**

- you can take pride in your creation
- you can expand your interests
- creating for others provides meaning in your life
- you can find a new hobby
- you can see beyond your circumstances

**Learn New Things**

- you can enhance your experience
- you learn best by creating based on what you learn
- you can learn a new skill or perfect a skill
- you can make a good resume and portfolio
- you can learn to be patient
- you can learn discipline
- you can develop a work ethic
- you can expand your knowledge

**Help Others**

- if no one created, there would be nothing to consume
- you can influence others
- you can leave a legacy for your children
- you can meet other people

- you can be a role model
- you can contribute to your community
- you can make your family look good

### **3.14.5 Why Volunteer?**

#### **Getting Perspective**

When a person has plenty of money, they have a nice family, and they still feel a lack of purpose or joy in life, a good psychologist will often recommend the client becoming a volunteer or, in some other way, donating their time, for the benefit of others. One of the great things about spending your time making other people's lives better is that it gives you perspective. Many of us in the modern United States have lived very sheltered lives and have little perspective on how the majority of the world lives.

#### **The Way the Youth Live**

Basically, we are often spoiled rotten, in comparison. Many of us don't know what difficult really means. We spend most our youth going to school for a few hours day and don't have to even try to pass classes. Most children spend most their free time playing games, chatting or texting on a mobile phone, or hanging around at the local mall. This generation expects more than even my generation did. Kids now expect to be entertained, in order for them to put any effort, into learning at school.

#### **Lazy Employees**

Employees, even my parents age, typically do nothing but complain all day. It seems that people's greatest fear these days is actually doing their job correctly. We get paid so much more than any other country and yet we feel no loyalty to the company who pays us and have no pride in what we do. It is true that we have made some great progress, in the last couple generations, as far as rights for women and people of color, but we seem to have gone too far the other way now.



**Greater Expectations**

The biggest problem today is that people are lazy, because their parents never taught them any work ethic. We need to raise the expectations in our children, if we want to have responsible adult citizens. And some how this generation needs to learn discipline as adults. If we don't learn the easy way, we will be forced to learn the hard way. The easy way is to learn these values by our own choice and in our own way, but if we fail to learn this way, we will be forced to learn as a result of our country falling apart and the economy coming to a complete standstill.

**No Easy Way**

To have joy in life, we need to have more outlets than just work and play. Some people help others just with their jobs, but most people will not find fulfillment in working alone. If we do nothing after work, but entertain ourselves with corporate media, we will not feel at peace. Constantly distracting yourself does not keep you from having to find meaning in life. There is no substitute way to get self esteem, without putting effort into something. There is no pill that will make you happy, all by itself.

**Be a Patriot**

It breaks my heart to see the service members give their lives and their health, just for us to be able to consume more. There is no point in fighting for our freedom to choose Coke or Pepsi, Toyota or Honda, Republican or Democrat, and the like. We need to make choices that involve sacrifice. We need to delay our gratification, in order to exercise our free will. The things that are really worth doing require a tremendous effort. Writing a book, running a marathon, spending a year overseas, joining the Peace Corps, becoming an Eagle Scout, participating in local theater, working on a political campaign, and raising money to help the environment are all things that will help you be grateful for the things you already have.



## **Chapter 4**

# **Positive News about The World**

by Ben Huot

## **4.1 American Problems and the Bible**

### **4.1.1 Where I am Coming From**

#### **Historical Perspective**

Anyway, I decided to write this to encourage people today and to give some historical perspective partly gained by now being 32, living on my own for a number of years, my study of history, and my insights about God, that have come to me over the last 12 years. I think it would be best for people to stop watching the news. There are major changes happening in the world today, but I think we should be excited about them and not afraid of them.

#### **No One Knows When**

First of all I believe that no one knows the future or controls it except God and that just as the first coming of Jesus was not predicted by anyone, the same will happen in his second coming. I think that studying prophecy should only be done to show how God is in control of history and not to predict future events. The smartest theologians in history could not even understand the most basic theology of the Bible and they have never successfully predicted the future.

#### **Unique Perspective**

I also have no clear idea about the future, but I do have an unusual perspective on world history, I am very creative, and am good at connecting things that seem unrelated. First of all, America has nothing to fear in the future. America will no longer be the world power but will likely be a world power. I think that the American big business view of the world is going to be proven wrong and will fail. Things will get harder economically in America, but things will improve in many other ways. One of the things that scares me most is being in the world all alone, but that is unlikely. Even if we have an apocalyptic

event like a nuclear war, there will still be a huge number of people left.

### **4.1.2 American Problems**

#### **Not So Bad in America**

Another thing that people don't seem to understand in America is that economists have a very poor record of understanding and explaining the present and have an even worse record of predicting the future. I think that we tend to overestimate our weaknesses and underestimate our strengths. I think that a lot of our world problems come from other world rivals trying to make things more difficult for America by distorting what other countries know about America. Just like I think Microsoft will be important in the future as a spoiler so is Russia. Russia still has global ambitions and blames us for its fall. Many of the growing powers in the world may well self destruct long before they threaten the US.

#### **American Ignorance**

I think Americans are often very naive about international politics, because we do not study world history in schools. The most important part of history is the very first part and the last couple centuries are actually least important. America is a anomaly in world history. America has lot fewer and less severe problems compared to the rest of the world because of our geography (no enemies on our borders), our abundant natural resources (which were mostly wood and fish), and our low population density. Almost everyone in the world, who is trying to improve the world would choose to live in the US, if they had a choice.

## **4.2 World History**

### **4.2.1 Role of Technology and Economics**

#### **Origin of Middle East Problems**

The Middle East was the way it is today because of decisions the people who live there made in the past. The spread of Islam and the Arab people was another anomaly of world history. Throughout most of history, people had far fewer freedoms than we enjoy today and at the most there were a few religious choices that were approved. The others were persecuted.

#### **Technology and History**

One of the keys to world history is the level of technology available at the time. For a very long time, throughout most of recorded history, what is now Europe traded with what is now India, Southeast Asia, and China and this was important for the world economy. Our modern way of life is all based on the energy we get from coal and oil. Without it, we will lose our technology very fast. How many people could build a printing press from scratch or know how to make an effective plough. These inventions took centuries and can be lost very easily.

#### **Roman Empire Success**

The Roman Empire was made possible because the technology of that era allowed people to navigate the Mediterranean, but was not advanced enough to allow voyage by the major world oceans. Rome became powerful when they took over North Africa (which supplied most of the food for the Roman Empire), Egypt, and the Middle East (which allowed them to financially benefit from the trade that went from the Mediterranean through the Red Sea and into the Arabian Sea to India).

### **Ascension of Europe**

Europe was able to dominate most of the world during the last 500 years, which a big contributing factor was that the Portugese figured out how to go from Europe and around the coast of Africa to India, China, and South-east Asia. One of the very important things that Europe needed from South and East Asia were spices, because they needed to preserve food and make them taste good enough to eat without modern refrigeration.

### **Technology vs. Morality**

At this same time, Asia became increasingly weak and Europe became much stronger. This was partly because of slight weather changes and European mastery of weapons technology like guns and the shift in warfare technology that favored discipline over personal combat skills and bravery. Another factor that made India and China weak was the desire to focus on moral development and to not pursue technological advancement as aggressively as the west. European nations also gained wealth and power through taking over what they called colonies which were mostly along their major trade routes to the Orient.

## **4.2.2 European Experience**

### **Rome Not First Church**

The Roman Catholic Church has convinced many people that it was the first church, but this is wrong. There were four equal and independent Christian centers and Rome was the least important (although it and the churches that separated from it after the reformation were the most successful politically for the last 500 years). The centers were, in order of importance: Alexandria, Antioch, Constantinople, and Rome. The Church out of Alexandria became the Coptic church and the Ethiopian church is part of this, the Church out of Antioch divided into the East and West Assyrian Churches (who were responsible for the Islamic renaissance) who spoke Syriac, the Church out of Constantinople became what is now called

the Eastern Orthodox Church who spoke Greek, and the Church out of Rome became the Roman Catholic Church who spoke Latin.

### **Parting Ways**

The Roman Catholic Church has historically persecuted the other churches more than any other church. Each of these centers were political and economic centers as well. Antioch was an important economic center and Alexandria was an important intellectual center. The Western Roman Empire out of Rome became the basis for the church and political power of medieval Europe, but mostly just in the former Roman Empire lands including what is now Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, and England and Ireland shortly afterwards.

### **Christianity and Paganism**

During much of the Middle ages, much of Europe was pagan. Christians, in what is now called England, were pillaged and then if caught were tortured, until they converted to paganism, by the Vikings (from Norway, Denmark, and Sweden). The reason the English came, to what is now called England, was that they were invited from Germany, to fight off the pagan Vikings. The English became powerful enough and pushed the indigenous Celts into Cornwall, Wales, and Scotland and took over what was now England, with what started out as separate kingdoms.

### **Viking Legacy**

The English monarchy starts with when the Normans invaded England in 1066. The Scots came from Ireland and the King of Scotland eventually inherited the throne of Scotland and England. They were united in the start of the 19th Century and that is where the Union Jack comes from. England never took over Scotland. The Vikings eventually converted to Christianity and the ones that settled in northern France became the nobility throughout



Europe and became the leaders that started Russia (with the help of the Byzantine Empire). Russia was considered by many to be the third Rome after Constantinople and was a major center of the Eastern Orthodox Church until the Russian communist revolution during World War 1.

### **Christianity as Unifying Factor**

During what Europe called the Middle Ages, Europe regressed technologically and became very religious and the Church was the only unifying factor. People starved for centuries, until they started to join kingdoms together and England, France, Spain, and Portugal united, to form the countries in roughly as they are today, the weather then changed in the 13th century, then after the bubonic plague which killed 1/3 of Europe, the Renaissance was started with the help of the Byzantine (Eastern Orthodox) monks, just before church in Constantinople (more important than the church in Rome) was taken over by the Ottoman Turks and turned into a mosque.

### **4.2.3 Asian Experience**

#### **Asia was the World**

During this same period, Asia was the world and Christianity was most active in Syria, Iraq, and Iran (as well as Ethiopia) and a small part of India. During the Roman Empire, Asia was just as important or more with the Persian Empire and the Chinese Empire (Han Dynasty). From the 4th to the 14th centuries Asia was at its zenith. The Church out of Rome and Constantinople persecuted the Church out of Antioch, so the Syriac Christians moved into the Persian Empire.

#### **Reasons for Spread of Islam**

Then after the western part of the Roman Empire fell apart, the Byzantine Empire (out of Constantinople) and the Persian empire became weak after fighting each other. Islam started and became a politically uniting force for

the Arabs (who lived in what is now called the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and then they were able to take over the Middle East and North Africa. The Christians there welcomed the Arabs (who were Muslims) into the Middle East, because they feared the Byzantine Empire more.

### **Europe Fights Off Islam**

The Islamic Empires almost took over Europe twice, the result of which would have made Christianity an obscure African religion. The first time was after the Arabs took over North Africa, they went into Spain and luckily were defeated in southern France. Centuries later, the Ottoman Empire almost took over Europe, but were defeated by the Hungarians. The reason why the Muslims were there in Bosnia was that they were settled resettled there by the Ottoman Empire, which was expanding its empire into Eastern Europe (at the expense of the Christian nations there).

### **Ethnic Cleansing of Christians**

Muslims got along with Christians in the Middle East for centuries, but many Muslims began to persecute many Christians about the same time as the Ottoman Empire was born. In fact the word genocide was developed after World War 2 to describe how the Muslims were destroying an entire linguistic and religious group (the Syriac Christians). At the beginning of the 20th Century half of the Ottoman Empire was still Christian. There are still some Christians in the Middle East. 10% of the population of both Syria and Egypt are Christian. There is also a large community of Christians in modern Lebanon (mostly Maronite).

## **4.3 The US and the World Today**

### **4.3.1 American Perspective**

#### **Baseless Worrying**

I remember as a kid how we feared Japan would own most of the US and how we thought we couldn't compete in areas like electronics. Now Sony and Nintendo are afraid of Apple and Japan has been declining for some time and has a much grimmer outlook than the US. The problem we have in America with too many old people and not enough young people is much worse in Japan. People seem to be afraid India and China will overtake the US.

#### **We Can Feed Ourselves**

The thing that people in our country don't understand is that China cannot even feed itself without food imports and the US still produces 25% of the world's food. Even without modern technology it would be conceivable to be able to feed our entire present population if we were smarter about what we grew, where we grew it, and where we lived. If we lost our modern technologies we would very quickly adapt.

#### **Life will Return Soon**

For a few weeks, things would be rough. But there would quickly be less crime. Once one person loots and they are shot for it, people will stop stealing. When the electricity (including hospitals and the sewage system) is off for a week, people will realize that it will never come back again and adjust. People will actually become closer friends as we will need each other. The church will be much stronger because people will feel they need God. People will be so much healthier that most people who need modern medications will no longer need them. Most people will be happier than before and we will likely have a higher literacy rate.

### **Importance of Economy**

I think the thing that is most dangerous to the US is our debt. I think that every country that wants us to fail including the Muslim extremists (there are Christian Arab terrorists as well) are trying to kill us by bankrupting us. Wars have often been one by one side over spending to fight the war. When we spend 100 times what the terrorists spend, then we are losing the war. The key to our economic problems in America is our personal and corporate debt. The most important part of national independence is the economy. Many empires have failed because they didn't understand economics.

### **4.3.2 Rest of the World**

#### **China's Problems**

Another problem China has is that its population is growing, so that it needs substantial growth just to keep everyone employed. China is also very polarized between the rich and fast growing eastern coast and the remote inland parts of China where people are of different ethnic groups, very poor, and the agricultural land is being destroyed by sand blowing in. China will likely split into multiple countries. This would make democracy more likely in at least one of the new countries.

#### **Indian and Russian Problems**

India and Russia also have large problems. Russia depends a lot on oil prices being high for its economy. Another problem for India which directly affect Russia is that in the next generation or two global warming will likely dry up the major river in India. Russia might have a hard time integrating a billion people into Siberia.

#### **Europe's Problems**

Europe will suffer a lot from global warming with increased immigration from the Middle East and North Africa (as they will become uninhabitable in a couple generations).

Europe could also become a lot like Siberia very quickly if the major ocean currents change. Europe has a very dense population and even though they have diversified their energy sources more than the US, they still depend on oil, especially from Russia. Europe will not do well in this situation and cannot feed its population without modern technology.

### **4.3.3 Comparing the US to the World**

#### **Europe is Falling Apart**

Many people think that Europe will outdo the US economically. But this is unlikely, if we think about the history of Europe and its geography, demographics, and natural resources. Before the 2 World Wars, the UK, France, and Germany were all global power, by themselves. When they lost their colonies, mostly after the next few decades following World War II for France and the UK and World War I for Germany, they almost destroyed themselves from centuries of war after war. Now the UK, France, and Germany have to unite together, to compete against America economically.

#### **Non-US Economies Weak**

One of the big weaknesses of Europe and Japan, which makes their economies less resilient than the US, is that they focus on only a few industries and these are dominated by a few big corporations, so when one of these companies loses market share, the whole economy suffers. At this point, there is little still left that can keep European countries at First World economic status, over the next two generations. Many people now think the same fate will fall on the US, but our empire is mostly in the continental US, and we are much bigger and have many more resources than Europe has. We are still the world's main consumers, so China, India, Europe and all the other major economies still want to trade with us, for their own survival.

## **US Not Like Europe**

Another thing to consider is that we have plenty of free space in our country and will have a big increase in our population, which will allow our large quantity of baby boomers in retirement a big enough base of young people, to support them. Of course, we will still go through tough times, in the US, but in Europe, China, and Japan these countries are all going to see a much bigger bubble of retired people, to support, as their countries are shrinking in population and cannot afford to keep increasing in numbers, even if they did have enough kids.

The other major factor, that puts the US in a better position than other major economic powers is that our empire is not far away geographically, nor is one part of our country holding another part of the country under their control. Even if the US split up, into regional countries, we would still be able to provide for ourselves, because most of our country has a least enough natural resources, to survive on their own, especially if they are willing to trade with each other.

## **4.4 Limits of Studies**

### **4.4.1 Limits in Reading**

#### **My Focus of Study**

I have studied world religions and philosophies for the greater part of 12 years. I have studied all the major belief system of the world including Chinese, Indian, and Middle Eastern Belief systems as well as the Enlightenment, Existentialism, Nietzsche (based on the Pre-Socratics), Epicureanism, and Stoicism. I also studied about the major events in history focusing on the between the 4th and 14th Centuries and focusing mainly on the Asian region.

#### **Polytheism**

There were a number of different religious texts which I did not read. Christians would call these occult, but I

have been searching for a word that would explain the same things to non-believers. I have just recently thought of the basic differentiator that separates the occult religions from the major world belief systems (revealed religions) is that the occult religions all worship more than one god. Sometimes people refer to this as Polytheism.

### **What the Bible Forbids**

Some belief systems like Animism or Neo-Paganism I would not read any primary texts, while with Middle Eastern, Indian and Chinese belief systems I have avoided the ones that talk about worship of other gods. The main thing the Bible forbids Christians to take part in are supernatural practices not done by the one Creator God, and not done how it is prescribed to do in the Bible. Christians do have rituals but they are not the same as the ones used to worship other gods.

## **4.4.2 Limits in Worship**

### **Christian Rituals**

Some of the more well known and widely practiced Christian rituals described in the Bible include: The Lord's Prayer, baptism, communion, Pentecost (also known as "speaking in tongues"), laying on of hands, anointing with oil, fasting, testimony, reading scriptures in public, the Sabbath, Easter/Passover, and other various festivals talked about in the Old Testament. Other ones were added later like Christmas, weddings, funerals, dedication of young children to the Christ and His Church, and others, some with less scriptural basis.

### **Places of Worship**

I also do not practice any other religion other than Christianity nor would I attend worship services of a number of religions or go into their places of worship like: Hindu Temples, Tibetan Buddhist gatherings, Religious (or Esoteric) Taoist gatherings. I have attended a zendo meditation and visited a mosque. I would also like to visit a Sikh

temple and a Jewish temple. The only one I would worship in other than a Christian church would be a Jewish temple.

### **4.4.3 Limits in Travel**

#### **Disadvantages of Traveling**

I also have not traveled outside my country at all and am not likely to travel to Europe, Asia, or Africa. I am not going overseas because it is very stressful for me to travel and I do not do well under stress. I like living in a city where I can go anywhere in town without being in a dangerous neighborhood. It also is very expensive to travel and I think I could use my money more productively. Also, many of the greatest treasures of Asia and Europe are in their written works that I can get modern English translations of them very inexpensively.

#### **Regional Problems**

I would also break my heart to see the castles and cathedrals in Europe and know that they had to give up their great forests for these. I would not want to travel to Africa because of the instability of most of the governments there, and the parts of Asia I would want to see would be very polluted, remote, or not a good place for Americans to go. I know many people visit places like China and Russia that they think are friendly to Americans, but I don't want to take a chance. After being in the military I know that traveling outside your country poses many other risks, that many world travelers manage to avoid, but could cost them dearly, if they run into the wrong situation or violate certain laws.

#### **Life is Good Here**

I live in a very beautiful and safe part of the world. We don't have many natural disasters, we can grow our own food, we are sparsely populated, we have mild weather (just enough change to see the seasons) we have plenty



of water and the best quality of water, and very few poisonous or even biting insects (other than some small mosquitos). We even have many types of environments, including: desert, beautiful unspoiled beaches (although very cold and with dangerous undertows), mountains with enough snow to ski on them, huge forests, even many virgin forests (never before logged). The only bad thing where I live is the lack of jobs. There are also not many young people in my town.

## **4.5 Why I Wrote my Books**

There are a number of reason why I decided to write what later turned into 50 books.

### **4.5.1 Documenting My Experience**

One of the reasons why I wrote these books was to document my personal progress, in learning to cope with Schizophrenia and to document what is happening in the world today, as I believe we are in a time of one of the biggest changes in history. This documentation was prepared, by me, for others, who might be going through similar situations.

### **4.5.2 Why Re-Write the Classics?**

#### **The Value of my Work**

I also wanted to keep a record of the most important Asian classics. There are two reasons why I didn't just buy and store a bunch of copies of these Asian classics, in modern English translations. It wasn't because I think I can write on the same level. History will decide what value my books are, but an encouraging sign is my lack of popularity in my own time. Many of the greatest thinkers in history were considered failures in their lifetime.

### **Increasing their Survivability**

One of the reasons then for writing about these great classics was because I was able to condense them into a very small space (relatively), so they would be easier to transport and store safely. The other major reason is that I own the copyright on my own books and can let people copy them freely, but I cannot do the same, for modern English translations, of these Asian classics.

### **4.5.3 Restoring Asian Christianity**

#### **Asian Religions are Not New Age**

Another reason for my books is to let Christians know that most major Asian belief systems can be studied, without violating scripture, and also letting them know that the New Age movement takes nothing more from any other Asian belief system than it takes from Christianity. I want Christians to have an appreciation for Asian belief systems other than Christianity, so that they can see Christianity as it was originally understood – as an Asian religion.

#### **Christianity is Not European**

One of the things that really changed how Christians practice their faith (for the worse) has been the assumption that Christianity is a European religion. In most of the world it is now understood that Christianity is either or both Asian and/or African, but in America and Europe many still are not aware of this. In the next couple generations the conception of a white Christian is going to be vary unusual, even in America and in Europe.

#### **Christianity in Europe**

Christianity was only considered European, because of the genocide committed in against Asian Christians. Despite this situation, Christianity has taken hold and is on the increase in most parts of the world, which more than makes up for its loses in America and Europe. In fact,

the only reason why the European royalty ever accepted Christianity is because the Christian God was more powerful than the pagan gods and they believed this would help them win wars.

## **4.6 Gifts from Europe**

### **4.6.1 New Ideas**

#### **Uniquely European**

Europe has often been behind Asia in terms of the value of its contributions to the humanities. There are some positive things that European culture has either taken on or come up with itself. One of the big ones are the Sciences and Social Sciences. Asian cultures did invent things, but they did not use the Scientific Method, per say. I think Europe brought about the idea that there are separate physical forces, that affect us, that are not directly related to spiritual problems.

#### **New Understanding**

Understanding that the physical aspects of the world behave according to certain physical laws, that are not directly attributed to spiritual causes was an important discovery. In the not too distant past, people would have thought that I was possessed and they would never realize what is the direct cause of my mental illness (which is chemical) and so not be able to treat it effectively. In the not too distant past, concepts like the idea that the mind could be treated separately from the soul and the concept of studying economics was not even dreamt of.

### **4.6.2 Physical and Spiritual World Complementary**

#### **Both Realities are Important**

I think it is bad to see the world as entirely physical or to think that the physical part of the world is more impor-

tant than the spiritual world is a grave mistake. I think that people trust Science to solve all their problems and don't realize that most conflicts are spiritual in nature. On the other hand, thinking that everything is spiritual makes it difficult to stay rooted in reality.

### **Both Aspects Need Each Other**

It would improve our society to have people aware of the spiritual consequences of their decisions and behavior, but the world would never function well enough, to allow time to reflect on these kinds of things, without most people working in a concrete, rational, and analytical focused endeavors. In other words, even though the most important parts of society, that makes us human and life worth living comes from what is not necessary, but without most people focusing on keeping the economy going and maintaining basic infrastructure, the former would not even be possible.

## **4.6.3 Value of New Ideas**

### **New Concepts of Freedom**

But another great idea that came from Europe or was developed by Europeans primarily is the concept of personal freedoms, both as a legal concept and as well as a social endeavor. While in contrast to the cultural sophistication of Asia, Europe appears very simple and barbaric, the freedom to express yourself, without conforming to any tradition is uniquely European in origin.

### **The Asian Burden**

One of the things that has increased my stress recently has been trying to think exclusively from an Asian perspective. I think one of the downsides of such a vast wealth of truly inspiring cultural traditions, that the desire to emulate these traditions causes undo stress. Sometimes I want to just write a poem or draw a picture and I shouldn't feel it needs to conform to some traditional expression of some profound concept.

## **4.6.4 Combining the Two**

### **Living a Balanced life**

A life that is obsessed with the study of ethics and discipline is not a very balanced life. There needs to be a place for relaxation and enjoyment of life experiences and we need to keep ourselves firmly in the here and now. One of the ways to get relief from the focus on self improvement is by doing things that do not require thought. And both can strengthen each other. Often I get my best insights when doing something mundane like copying files, listening to music, watching a movie, or riding the bus. And I when I feel good mentally then I am able to be more positive and useful in my writing.

### **The Best of Both Worlds**

I think it would be great if both East and West could learn from each other and I look forward to a day, when most people are willing to take the best from every culture and not feel that they need to choose between important ideas, even if they are only paradoxically related. It is in the embracing of the paradox of living in a physical world, consumed with an overflowing of our emotions and in the simple daily tasks we do, to keep our bodies and minds strong, while still being aware of a bigger spiritual world that we also take part in, through our interactions with each other and knowing, that the basis for our sense of purpose and direction, in our lives can only be understood spiritually.

## **4.7 Technological Progress**

Many people are afraid, that everyone will eventually be so focused on technology, that they will end up not having an human contact. But that is not the direction that things are going. Instead of people serving computers, now computers are serving people.

### **4.7.1 New Priorities**

#### **Mobility and Simplicity**

One of the biggest changes, in how people use computers and what they expect of them, is the focus on mobility, being the most important requirement, in designing new products. The other big change in computing is the willingness of the average end user, to spend lots of time getting things set up, on their computer, doing computer maintenance, and needing to repair things, that break down over time. The web is changing in the direction of not making the user have to think, to navigate the website.

#### **Reliability over Function**

People are not getting more interested and obsessed about how technology works, but rather are losing patience with it taking up so much of their time. To sum this up, computers are becoming mainstream for consumers and people's needs are more simple then the developers think, and they are more interested in improving the way they do things, than what they can do or how it is done. Sometimes the process is more important than the outcome and sometimes the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

### **4.7.2 Current Trends**

#### **New Technologies**

Think of the big hit technologies of the past few years, like the new Apple mobile devices, or the Nintendo Wii and other game consoles. People have even tried using the web, to keep in contact with their friends and family, that live far away. Twitter and Facebook have become as important as Google. People used to have fun looking up things, that they heard, that they did not know much about, or enjoyed just surfing the net and following links, but today they are more interested in finding a restaurant, or directions to the nearest movie theater. Google

now focuses on giving relevant answers quicker and more directly, rather than making you do all the work. Technology is changing, to improve people's ability, to engage with others socially.

### **Land Warrior: Finding Things Faster**

There has also been a revolution in technologies used in combat. The Army and Marines are now rolling out into production a system called LandWarrior. It is designed, to allow instant communication, between every soldier, from private to general, instantly. One of the big things it helps soldier, on the ground, do is allow them, to get to the sites, where they have received intelligence about more quickly. This allows fewer soldiers, to be more successful and has helped turn the tide of the war, in Iraq.

### **Land Warrior: Being Aware of Its Limits**

One of the ways, in which this helps soldiers is to give them real time maps, for their navigation. In the past, they had to consult a map and compass, to navigate, but now all they have to do is look in the eyepiece, of their squad leaders computer, and they know instantly where they are. At first, the soldiers would constantly have their eyepiece down, but found out soon, that they only needed to consult it, from time to time. Just as soldiers are finding a way, to make technology serve them, instead of being run around by it, so the consumer is becoming empowered, to use technologies, to improve their lives, instead of the computers wasting their time and making them less productive.

## **4.7.3 Future Trends**

### **Sci Fi Tech**

When you see how computers are used in futuristic Sci Fi films like Star Trek, most the devices they use are simple and small and they only have one traditional computer, in the form of a mainframe, for the ship. The devices they

use, that they carry with them, are thin and light and are designed for the most common uses and do not try to do everything every specialist would need, in rare occasions. They have a tablet style computer for writing and reading, a sensor about the size of a smartphone, and specialized devices for things like sensing life and doing medical procedures.

### **A Generational Thing**

While my parents generation see computers as a novelty and are so surprised, with what they are able to do and so intimidated by how they work (their complexity) and my generation is most experienced, with getting things to work for them and has little confidence, in relying upon them, to get work done, the next generation is taking technology, as a given, and are comfortable enough with it, to see it as a tool and nothing more. Just like when phones were invented and many were upset, that people would stop visiting each other, in person, or when VCRs came out the movie industry thought they would never get anyone, to go to a movie theater, so we will find the most useful role, for computers, in our lives and will stop allowing them to be some sort of mysterious and feared monster.

## **4.8 The Apocalypse**

### **4.8.1 Making Predictions**

#### **What Christians Think**

Many of the most prominent and influential Christian leaders have thought that we are very close to the End of Times and the Apocalypse. There are several reasons for this. One reason is that there is a certain number of years between the major events in biblical history and the year 2000 timeframe gives the same amount of time between Christ's death and His return. Another reason is that technologies are available now, that would allow people to be able to destroy, on the scale described in Biblical



prophecy about the End of Times. The third major reason is the return of Jewish people to Israel and the establishment of a Jewish nation, which was prophesied to happen before Christ's return. The fourth major reason is that we are getting close to bringing the gospel to all the nations on the earth. The fifth reason is because of all the wars going on in the Middle East, where Armageddon is supposed to happen.

### **Every Prediction was Wrong**

This belief in the eminent return of Christ has had profound impact on the focus of Christian' efforts. Because so many Christians believe God is coming back so soon, they are not going to invest time in bringing social justice and the relief of suffering to the masses. But this generation is no more likely to be the End of Times than any other time in history. Biblical scholars have all been wrong in their predictions of the End of Times and this is because that Biblical prophecy is very cryptic about when this will happen, just like how people were surprised about the first coming of Jesus.

## **4.8.2 God will Help Us**

### **God is in Control**

Many people think that the devil is planning the apocalypse and we are waiting for him to decide what time, but this is not biblical. God is in control of history and the Apocalypse and the reason why World War II, Napoleon's empire, or the Cold War did not end up being Armageddon is because God said no, even though the devil wanted it to happen then. In fact, the cryptic nature of the prophecy about the Apocalypse was designed not only to keep Christians on their toes and motivate them to do what is right and spread the gospel, but it was also designed so that the angels, including the fallen ones, could not predict the time either. We continue to try to put our preconceptions about reality on God, and we do not see His plans,

because we are too focused on worldly endeavors, like politics and business.

### **We Know Very little**

Jesus could come back today or even a hundred thousand years in the future. In fact, when it happens we will likely not even see it, until the end of the first half of the seven year Tribulation. Also, from God's perspective, a day is the same as a thousand years, so the time could be very different than we have guessed, from the prophecy in the book of Daniel. We don't even know whether or not Christians will be in the world during the Tribulation or how to reconcile the battle of Armageddon, which is the last battle, with the battle that seems to follow it, called Gog and Magog.

### **No Reason to Worry**

There is no reason to worry when we know so little about it. God has always been with us and provided us a way to cope with everything, that we have had to deal with, and He will do the same in this situation. The fact is God intervenes supernaturals almost constantly, so we do not need to fear any situation. We should focus on improving our own lives and stop worrying about things we have no control over.

### **Trust in God**

God cares about humans, even though we have done nothing to deserve it, and we are in control of our destiny. We can make choices that make our lives better or worse. We were born into different situations, which we have no control over, but worrying doesn't solve anything. We need to accept the things we cannot change and change the things we can. Besides, what would knowing about the future now help you to deal with it? If there was some way to prepare for it, don't you think God would give us that information. We often cause more worry from fear beforehand than we suffer from the situation we fear.

## **4.9 Peak Oil Worries**

### **4.9.1 Moderating Factors**

#### **Not like the Dark Ages**

Many people now worry about, when we run out of oil, how our country will be affected. I had at one time compared what could happen, in the worst case scenario, as similar to the end of the Roman Empire and the beginning of the Dark Ages. There are also many reason why this situation, although very traumatic and serious, will end up being much easier to deal with.

#### **Preservation of Information**

The Internet may be the poster child of what is wrong with out society, but it has allowed us to gather supplies, from the far reaches of the world and preserve books, in many different locations. One of the big things that allowed the Industrial Revolution was the invention of a more effective plow. All the secrets to doing well, without oil, are already in books and they will still be here, if and when modern society falls apart.

#### **It will Happen Slowly**

Not only will we avoid a lot of the really bad possibilities, due to the preservation of information, but the shock will not be there, because at this point, if things fell apart, it will happen very slowly. The most dangerous and devastating effects of a break down of the world economy is not the lack of modern conveniences, but, rather the violence and disorder caused by the rapid change. The federal government has a plan to deal with these things, and it looks like bailing out the banks was one of the best ways to start.

## **4.9.2 Advantages**

### **Violence will Decrease**

Another thing that we worry about is that we think society will break down and there will be no political or social order. One of the things that will help deal with a lack of law enforcement is the number of people with guns. Once one person steals something, from another person, after they get shot, the violence will stop suddenly.

### **No More Red Tape**

The biggest reason why people commit crimes is that they think they will not be caught, and one of the big factors that helps them with this is the red tape, of the modern legal system. The beauty of having no official police means that we don't have the problems of a bureaucratic government and we don't have to convince anyone else of what happened or prove it. In Saudi Arabia, they cut off your right hand if you steal, as the left hand is the hand use to wipe your butt, and there are very few robberies there anymore.

### **Increasing Church Involvement**

Another real benefit of this kind of situation is that church attendance will skyrocket and it will be much easier to meet people and form long term relationships. Churches will be a great way to organize and form communities, around those who survive. The Church was the major center of civilization, during the Middle Ages, in Europe, and will likely rise to prominence again in this kind of situation.

### **We will Be Healthier**

This will have a moralizing influence upon the entire population. Many of our addictions to video games, junk food, the Internet, and sex will die down, as they will be hard to maintain, in this situation. Most people, who depend on modern medications, will become healthy enough, so

that they will no longer need those medications. And the polluted environment will finally have time to heal and future generations will live better lives, the sooner this happens.

### **4.9.3 Likelihood of this Situation**

#### **Somewhere in the Middle**

The most likely thing to happen is some situation in between, where we are now, and the complete breakdown of modern life. We will likely have more disasters, both man-made and natural, in most parts of the world. The US will fare the best, compared to the rest of the world, from the more violent weather, caused by global warming.

#### **American Future is Bright**

We may not still be one nation, and we will we have a vastly different culture, but whoever lives in America as our descendants will do well, in almost any likely situation. The only conceivable event, that could destroy America, would be a once in a million years asteroid hit or a once in ten thousand years event, like the eruption of a super volcano.

## **4.10 Worst Case Scenario**

### **4.10.1 First Obstacles**

#### **Full Scale Invasion of the US**

One of the things, that scares Americans, in a Worst Case Scenario, is an invasion by China or Russia. Some might think this could be a possibility, if things get bad enough, in our struggle for limited oil, that we decide not to honor our debts, or some other hypothetical situation might happen, so that things get out of control, to the point, where our leaders feel they have no other choices. We can piece together what would happen, if we look at situations, that involved some of these factors, that have happened at

other times and places in history and the unique combination factors specific to the US, including: our geography, our demographics, our military readiness, and our willingness to accept loss.

### **Our Military Strength**

Some people might think that a country as large and advanced as China or Russia could take us on and have a chance at winning. The biggest thing that protects America is that we are an ocean away from our major enemies and rivals. Even Hitler wasn't able to reach as far as America during World War II. It is certainly possible, with current technologies, but it is more expensive and slows things down significantly. If our enemies get that far, other factors will hold them back. The first is that our military is the best in the world and is 25 years ahead of the rest of the world, in things like stealth. Even the latest Russian technologies are not as reliable or have the same abilities in key areas, that would allow fewer US tanks, helicopters, aircraft, and ships to inflict as much damage as their opponents.

### **4.10.2 Secondary Obstacles**

#### **Special Forces and Intelligence**

Another major factor, if we don't count in the conventional military, is that there are other agencies that would step in. We have very large army of intelligence agents and special forces, which could even, just by themselves, make the war so bloody, that there would be somewhere like 90% casualties. Think of what the success of a tiny group of terrorists can be when they target us. The intelligence agents and special forces use similar tactics, but are much better trained, much better armed, there are many more of them, and they have better intelligence, than those they are fighting against. They have been through training, that makes this kind of situation, as easy to operate in, as it does for a kid playing paintball.

## **More Sources of Weapons**

You also have to figure that the US military has a whole range of technologies, that are unknown, to the rest of the world, but we are ready to use, if we needed them. We had laser guided weapons and night vision battle-field ready in the Vietnam War and we had a whole fleet of stealth fighter/bombers ready to go, when we bombed Libya in 1985. Another thing to consider is that in many rural areas of the United States, the local population is often armed to the teeth already. In many rural states it is legal to have fully automatic military-style assault rifles, and that right is exercised, by a large number of people. Many people have enough ammunition rounds, to last 20 years of war. Our Department of Defense has already planned and prepared, for every possible scenario, including this one.

### **4.10.3 Final Obstacles**

#### **Weapons of Mass Destruction**

And as for weapons of mass destruction, we have them too in as large or larger quantities, so that we can drop the same stuff on them. Also, it is not possible to destroy all the nukes of ones side, because we have nuclear powered submarines with nuclear weapons. No one knows exactly where they are, except the captain on the ship, those missiles can reach anywhere in the world, and they can survive for years, without any more fuel and only need to briefly rise up, to get food, every 6 months. Even if we had a full nuclear war, with a major nuclear power like Russia or China, most people would survive, if they build a simple shelter in their houses. The kind of nuclear bombs, that would be dropped currently would be very small and targeted, because destroying the entire country's infrastructure makes the land gained much less valuable.

### **We Won Last Time**

If the US were invaded, we would have instant unity, between the most fundamentalist Christians and the most extreme feminists. The last time we fought a major world power on US soil, during the Revolutionary War and War of 1812, we won. It is true that the end of the Revolutionary War was a stalemate and the British decided it wasn't worth it, but it doesn't matter how you win a war. The British were the biggest military power at the time and the US was just becoming a nation. In Vietnam, the communists never won a battle against the US and were technically losing the war, yet the US was forced to leave and the communists are still in power, decades later.

### **Final Limiting Factors**

Having a much bigger army does not mean that you will win, even if you have technology that is almost as good. This was proven in a number of wars, when Arab armies fought against Israel. Also you have to consider that even the Soviet Union was forced out of Afghanistan because of public opinion even, with no free press. Another factor is that we would likely be able to arm and train resistance in China or Russia and take the war home to them and could quite possibly break down the public order in their countries.







## **Chapter 5**

# **More Insights and Inspiration**

by Ben Huot

## **5.1 The Power of One**

### **5.1.1 The Individual**

#### **Don't Give Up**

**I** am continuing my writing, in order to encourage others, that we can make a difference, as individuals. The bulk of my writing, before the depression started, in 2008, was trying to get people to realize that the problems in the world we keep hearing about are serious and need to be dealt with now, but that many people, who would be willing to make the sacrifices necessary, to make the world a better place, are just getting discouraged and think that it is time to just give up.

#### **Just One Person**

I just started reading a book written by the president of PETA, the animal rights organization, and she make a great case, for how we can make a difference, all by ourselves. Most people would give to charities, if they were wealthy, or try to change the government, if they were able to get into power, but much of history was changed, by a single person, who was just like everyone else, but decided to spend their years on earth making a difference, for others. A few people have changed history starting all by themselves.

### **5.1.2 As a Group**

#### **Lessons from History**

In my life time, I have seen the Soviet Union fall apart and atheism lose political power. The Soviet Union was such a huge power that, even as a kid, we feared the Russians, to be our greatest enemy. For much of the Cold War, many Christians were afraid that the majority of the world would give up their faith in religion. My parents saw major changes, in tolerance, for those of other races,

within the span of just a decade, so that it is now unpopular and untolerated to be a racist. The US was winning the Vietnam War militarily and the war would have easily gone on, for another ten years, but it was cut short, by the the American people's unwillingness to let the issue go.

### **More Power than We Think**

It is interesting, that we still do not seem to realize, that a government cannot keep itself in power, no matter how much power they have over their citizens, if they push things too far. The reason why the world is in the state it is, is because the US citizens may not want to be aware of some of the dirty things done to maintain our power, but basically expect someone to do those things, and that is the main reason why they are done. For instance, the reason why torture is likely still used, within the intelligence community, is not because it is thought to be useful or justified, by those who perform it, but that the leaders of the country would be held liable, if there were a terrorist attack and the people, who were involved, were in custody and did not give up the information needed to prevent the attack.

### **Power of American Citizens**

Basically, Americans really don't care about what happens to non-Americans and feel justified in doing so, in order to maintain the kind of lifestyle, that we are used to. And yes, as always, I am referring to Americans, when I say we, as we have the ability, to change the world, as someone born in the third world does not have the resources, power, and the protection afforded by our civil rights. The really difficult thing, for us to accept very soon, is both the gravity of the situation, but also the great opportunity, that even one American has the ability to exercise, at little risk to themselves.

### **5.1.3 Keep Working Hard**

The future is not set and we don't need to continue down this road. Things will change tremendously, in this generation, more than things have, for maybe thousands of years, and there will be some major losses, but there are also some great things, that will happen, that we cannot even imagine yet. God still has many wonderful surprises, for all of us. We just need to believe and take a chance.

## **5.2 Usefulness of Crises**

### **5.2.1 Psychology of a Crisis**

#### **Local Example**

I have spent about a year preparing, for surviving the end of the world, as we know it, caused by anything, from natural disasters, to the end of cheap oil. I wasn't happy, with the online communities, because people are so mean online, so I looked up about local Peak Oil advocates and I came across an interesting development and controversy. What had happened is that the local advocates brought this scenario, to the community government and after the case was presented, it was decided, that, instead of spending money, to become more self-sufficient energy wise, the budget was spent on improving the infrastructure, for increased car usage.

#### **Apathy to Despair**

This decision seemed to anger and frustrate those, who spent so much time and energy, to present their case, but I was not surprised. The thing is that most people today consider not having electricity and modern plumbing is the same as being in the stone age and would likely just give up and wait to die, instead of working hard, to survive, in a more difficult situation. The problem is, when people are confronted with the possibility of a disaster, they quickly jump from apathy to despair.

### **Afraid of Hard Work**

I think the big reason for this is that people who have grown up in the situation, that we are in now, have basically adopted the idea, that a successful society is one that: keeps on getting more and more advanced technologically, has fewer and fewer rules, and requires less and less effort, to keep it going. Since they have adopted this worldview, it is hard for them to think about the possibility, of losing this, and still surviving, in a rational manner. The only thing that seems to scare this last few generations is having to do an honest day's work.

### **5.2.2 Short Attention Span**

#### **Crises are Helpful**

This may seem discouraging, but this situation has happened before and people will survive. I know it sounds cruel, but the fewer Americans who survive, the better it is, for those left. People will learn the value of hard work, but it is going to have to take a big shock, to get their attention. Unfortunately, Americans seem to jump from crisis to crisis, but have a hard time staying focused on the same thing, when there is no longer and imminent threat.

#### **Understand the Reason Why**

We have seen this happen with Homeland Security. The federal government spent tremendous amounts of time and money making sure, that we would never allow another tragedy like 9/11 to happen again and then, less than ten years later, we have the same problem, except the disaster was prevented, due to some fast thinking and brave airplane passengers. We also seem to gravitate between huge economic growth and huge depressions, which we could prevent with some simple oversight, but when no one is watching and the economy is going strong, we get rid of these important rules. We need to learn why things were set up the way they were before we start changing them.

### **Homeland Security Example**

We also had a similar situation with joining the different intelligence and law enforcement agencies under the Homeland Security umbrella. The problem was that these agencies had been organized properly beforehand. We purposely separated the CIA and the FBI, even though it is inconvenient, in order to keep from these agencies from getting too powerful and end up like the SS or the KGB.

The other agencies were under different heads for equally legitimate reasons. Immigration does more than deal with terrorism. It also allows people to become citizens and the Coast Guard does more than just fight terrorism. They help in case of natural disasters and the help fight the war on drugs. And similar reasons explain why all the other agencies were arranged the way they were before we formed a Homeland Security cabinet position.

### **5.2.3 The Solution**

#### **Hit the Reset Button**

One of the thing, that really differentiates post World War II America, from before, is that we have no frontier. We need to find a way, to start things over again, as a society, as well as have a way, for people, to start over, as individuals. A big enough disaster may just give us the opportunity, to reorganize the way society operates, into a more healthy way of life. The worst thing that could happen is that we never do get hit by a big disaster and we continue on this same path. Without a major disaster, we will learn to work harder and appreciate the opportunities we have, but it will happen much more slowly.

#### **People are Irrational**

Instead of trying to appeal to a person's rational awareness of the world, we need to realize, that people are lead, by their emotions, most of the time. Instead of fighting this, we need to just accept this. We need to stop debating and understand the psychology of the citizens we are



working with. This is the big reason why the government will never admit that we are low on oil, because that will cause the very disaster people are fearing.

### **People Cannot Decide**

The government needs to do some things, without telling the people, and needs to avoid going through a public governmental process. Hard decisions need to be made and it does not matter so much what is decided, except that something must be decided and worked toward. The military understands this very well. Most people are not emotionally able, to make their own decisions, or to run their own government. The average person will never have the education or the inclination, to make hard decisions.

The big reason why the government is so indecisive is because the average citizen is indecisive. We seem to jump back and forth, between opposite approaches, to our problems. We are almost evenly divided, between 2 opposing camps, so we give those, who have the most trouble making decisions, the power, to determine our leadership and our future.

## **5.3 A Different World**

### **5.3.1 Political and Social Changes**

#### **Defeat of Atheism**

The reason why this is a turning point in history is not just a matter of the decline of the US or the decline of the world economy, but it is the culmination of the downfall of the human ability, to solve our own problems, especially through technology. If the war on terrorism has taught us nothing else is that creativity and drive beats wealth and technology. We have learned that even the smartest people in the room don't give you the right answers and that pride can beat even the wealthiest. Not only have we seen that we cannot rely on government, to save us, during Katrina, but that capitalism can self-destruct, just as quickly, as communism.

### **Ascension of Christianity**

We used to be afraid that most of the world would lose their faith, but now we fear that people are taking their belief in God too far. During the last few centuries, the Church has seen a huge barrier, to its expansion and its very survival, in Europe and most of America now, but, in the same period, many times the population of America and Europe have converted to Christianity, in every other major continent, in the world. The biggest contribution from the US, to the world, may very well be Pentecostalism.

### **One World Economy**

The US is not going to fall, unless the rest of the world does. What we have is a one world economy, so that no one really wants anyone else to fail, because even the slightest damage done, to one of the major economies, in the world, will damage the others, just as much. The flip side of the US's complete dependence on China for its manufacturing has the side effect of China depending on the US, for both its market and for its ability to produce so much of the world's food. Basically, if the US is hurt too bad, China not only goes bankrupt but starves.

### **US Power will be Regional**

It is true though that the US will return to a more maintainable world status as a major world power instead of the only world superpower. Some of the most successful and happy years of our country came as a result of our ability to focus on our own problems, and let someone else be hated, for interfering, in world politics. It looks like China and Saudi Arabia might be the world's police force, in the future, and people will forget about the US, just as quickly as they forgot about how much they hated the UK, France, and Russia.

## **Biggest Changes**

The next generation will most likely see the greatest changes, in the recorded history, but they will be more social, than technological. The biggest commodities of the future will not only be oil, but water and soil. One of the sad things, that will happen, in just a matter of time, will be the die off of a major part of the world's population, because there are just too many mouths to feed and most likely Africa and Southern Asia will be hit the hardest. The world balance of power will shift, as a direct result of climate change and weather will be the biggest destructive force and the major focus of national security in the future.

### **5.3.2 Future of Society and Technology**

#### **Do It Yourself**

There will be many positive changes, especially social. People will be more focused on the local community and will be more self-sufficient. People will be more and more interested in creating things, rather than consuming things. The do-it-yourself community will grow immensely. The big thing that the web based economy will have to do to survive is to focus on selling novelty and the personalization of products.

#### **Mass Media**

If Hollywood survives, their market will not be on selling generic products, to a mass audience. Every form of media will be online and there will be no way to get people to pay for it. More and more social groups and individuals will come out with their own media and use it to further their agendas. I think making money purely by advertising will become less and less valuable, as there will be so many more places for ads and so many more companies out there, that they will get lost in the static.

The big companies will be the ones with Big Brands. The big thing that will separate the little players from the big ones will be a matter of how they differentiate them-

selves. Americans will no longer find it profitable to sell commodity products for commodity prices.

### **All Information Public**

So much information will be available, that the information itself will be less important and the way to sift through it faster will be where the money is. Every piece of information will be available, for everyone, by some point in the future. Scams will become much more convincing as they will be able to make use of this information.

### **Insignificance of Government**

The most important factor in your life will not be the country you live in, but the technology provider that you use to access media and the Internet. The big reason why governments will stop being as big a factor will be because they cannot move as fast as technology can, so people will stop using the government to help them, when someone commits a crime against them.

### **Huge Industries**

People will pay others mainly to give themselves more free time. The thing that will take more time than anything else will be finding things. Even though all information will be online, there will be so much of it that being able to answer meaningful questions will be a major source of income for many businesses. One of the things that people might enjoy most is having a break from technology and creating devices, that are fashionable and easy to use, will be a huge business.

### **Reaction Against Technology**

Eventually people will actually start putting technology into their bodies. About this time, there will be a major reaction against technology and many people will try to exist off grid, but it will be much harder to do so, then

ever before. Just like we all have phone numbers and email addresses, but don't have to have them, the same will be true of our access to the Internet and services that help us make sense of all the information.

### **5.3.3 Why I Am Certain**

#### **The Future is Now**

One of the reasons why I can say these things with such certainty about the future is because these things are already happening. The reason why they seem futuristic to many people is that they are not mainstream yet because people aren't emotionally ready for them. The biggest changes in the future will be social, not technological.

#### **Computers are Dumb**

The big thing in technology, that will take a very long time, if it is ever possible, unless we find some other advanced technology some other way than inventing it by ourselves, computers will not be much smarter in the near future. Many people are afraid of computers taking over the world, but the most advanced robot in the world can just barely walk upright on two feet up stairs.

#### **Problem with Engineers**

The social revolutions will be much like what Facebook is now and the reason why it was not done ten years earlier was not a technological problem, but a social one. People were afraid to give out personal information, when the web first came out, although it was designed originally for two way communication. This is the exact reason why the biggest challenge to change in technology is the older generation, especially the engineers.

#### **The Next Generation**

Science Fiction writers with little or no knowledge of science often in-vision some of the greatest technological leaps. The first people to adopt a new technology will

always be the youngest generation and one of the key things that holds us back is that our leaders are so old and unimaginative. Some of this will only happen as that generation dies off.

### **Applications to Politics**

These things all sound like they are only related to technology, but the same thing occurs on a political level as well. The big reason why I see the major climate changes, shifts of power, and wars over resources will happen is because people are not emotionally willing to make the changes necessary to avoid these changes.

Not all changes are bad, but people who seek to influence people of the future need to understand not just history, but modern psychology, as well. Philosophy is much less important. The real great thing that philosophy provides is training in thinking rationally for yourself, plus philosophy is also a humanity and the humanities encourage cross-discipline study, more than any of the sciences or social sciences. When you study Asian philosophy, you are studying Asian history, Asian religion, Asian literature, Asian art, and Asian music.

## **5.4 Finding Your Approach**

### **5.4.1 Background**

#### **Rationale**

It is true, that people tend to be unwilling to change and unwilling to listen to rational arguments and, as individuals, we have little power, to changes the way things are, on a grand scale. But this does not mean that we need to give up. Just like in a job, who you know is more important than what you know. Also, when you want something right, you need to do it yourself. The reality is you can get a lot of people to do small things, if you appeal to their emotions, but the most important and the bulk of the work must be done by you and maybe a few others.

## **Easier Routes**

The most important factors, in determining your ability, to influence the future, is to never give up, work much harder than everyone else and to be creative. There are some things that you could do that would be very valuable, but they take a lot of money to do. Avoid these things. One of the big things we can now do, with minimal funding necessary, is to advertise and distribute information online.

## **5.4.2 Information Laws and Rules**

### **Major Laws**

Before you do this, make sure you are not violating any laws, because there is a very good chance that you will get caught, sooner rather than later. The big laws you need to worry about, beyond the obvious ones about not scamming people, making things up about people that are not true, distributing drugs, or other similar things are copyright, privacy, patent, and trademark laws. Copyright problems are the most common.

### **Ask Permission First**

The easy way, to avoid running into a violation of someone's copyright, is to understand that everything is copyrighted automatically, as soon as it is created, and that you should ask people's permission, before using anything, that you have not created yourself. Copyrights cover everything, that is a creative work (in the broadest sense), so copyrights can include software, any kind of media like books, pictures, music, and the like. Patents cover a specific implementation of an idea and the patent laws, that you are most likely to run into, are about software and file format patents.

### **Copyrights**

Copyright laws are in some way very logical and in other ways make little sense. You cannot copyright a short phrase,

lists, fonts, or designs. You do not need to register, pay money, or to put copyright notices on your work, to protect your work with a copyright. Copyright laws only extend back a short amount of time. Book copyrights only go back to the 1920s, so anything done before then is not copyrighted, but modern translations (done after 1920) of earlier works are still copyrighted. You need to understand every license, that you have, before you use any piece of software. There are a few major categories of licenses, for programs and they can vary widely, but the main concepts are very similar.

### **5.4.3 Software Rules**

#### **Proprietary Programs**

The first one is a proprietary program, like Microsoft Word or Adobe Photoshop. Both these programs are considered to be licensed to you and you need to pay, for each copy that you use. One copy means being on one computer at a time. Sometimes, you are allowed to have it on both a laptop and a desktop, but you can't use them at the same time. Many companies, governments, and non-profits often buy a license, for a certain number of users. Many people steal these programs and you probably won't be caught, but if you use them for business and they find out, you can get big fines. The way they find out is that one of the people working for you reports you and gets a big cash reward in exchange.

#### **Variety of Proprietary Licenses**

The software companies, who design these programs, often offer better deals, for those who work in education, usually just students and teachers, and for individuals that are not producing anything, that they will make money for. Legally, it would be better to outright pirate (steal) the software, than to use an academic license, for something you are going to sell. The educational licenses are getting stricter and stricter. Some companies monitor whether you are still in school and how many classes you



are taking and can revoke your license remotely.

### **Open Source Licenses**

Some people do not like these kinds of restrictions on software, so they use what is called open source software. This basically means, that you can use the software and distribute it all you want, but if a programmer changes the source code and distributes the modified program, then they need to give away their source code as well. Not all open source licenses require this though. Another advantage of open source software is that it survives, even if the company producing it goes out of business, or decides to stop developing it. Open source programs generally use free and open file formats, so you can usually take your work into other programs, to edit or view.

### **Other Common Licenses**

Some other major categories of software include shareware and freeware. Freeware is free, but with the condition that you cannot distribute it, without getting permission. Shareware usually means that a program has a certain time limit or is limited, in what you can do with it, until you buy the program. Other names for shareware include demo ware, donation ware, trial ware and other similar terms.

## **5.4.4 Media Rules**

### **Background**

There are different types of licenses, for media, than for software, which includes every kind of writing, graphics, designs, audio, video, and multimedia. The same concepts apply as before with software. Ask someone's permission, before you use something, that someone else created. No matter what license is given, any rights to the media not specifically granted are retained by the copyright holder and you never get the copyright, unless you get permission stating exactly that. There are also things

called moral rights, which means that if you use the images in a way that make someone look bad, then you have to get the rights to these as well. Some of the restrictions on copyrights, when you don't have moral rights, include using the media for things like pornography, racism, or promoting drug use.

### **Privacy Laws**

One of the rules, that is unique, to media, are privacy laws. It is illegal, to use someone's image without their consent, unless you recorded the person in photo or video, in a public place. So, before you use anyone's image, be sure to get them to sign a written permission. Also, I recommend not using pictures of children or women of any age. I just avoid people entirely. More and more things are copyrighted, like the insides of buildings and museum art. The main principle to remember is, if it is not a public space, get permission, before you use the images, or video.

### **Royalty Free**

Many designers keep a number of design elements like fonts, illustrations, photos, video clips, and sound effects, for later projects. The most popular licenses are called royalty free, meaning that once you pay for it, you do not need to pay again, no matter how many copies you distribute. You need to check the exact license, because there are often different fees, for different usages like web, TV, or print. There are also restrictions, to try to keep you from selling these same media collections to others. Generally, most clipart, stock photos and fonts are royalty free.

### **Creative Commons**

There is a new license system, that has come out, in the last 10 years and is mainly used on the Internet. Creative Commons licenses include 4 main parts and most any combination of those. The 4 things, that can be allowed

by the creator, without permission, are commercial use, free modification, free distribution, and no credit. So any Creative Commons license can allow or disallow any number of these things. So for instance, I license my books, to allow people to distribute them for free and use them for commercial use, but do not allow modification, and they have to give me credit. I license most of my photos, to allow people to modify them, as long as they give me credit and they allow anyone else, to modify their modification, of my original work.

### **Public Domain**

Public Domain licenses allow you to do anything, with the media in question, without even needing to give credit, or having any others restrictions. After copyrights expire, which currently happens for books 75 years after the authors death, or 90 years after it was written, which ever comes first, they became public domain. This is the main reason why theaters love to do Shakespeare (because there are no royalties, that need to be paid). One of the things, that people think is public domain, that is not is the traditional happy birthday song.

## **5.4.5 Other Information Laws**

### **Patents**

Patent laws usually only affect those publishing media, by having to pay royalties, to use certain patented computer concepts. Some of these are file formats that include MP3, if you use it on a large scale, and recently MP4 video, for any use. I know this sounds terrible and it makes little sense, but because there are so many patents in video compression, that many think it is not possible, to come up with a video compression, that is good enough, to be practical and not violate someone's patent.

Some people have recently tried to sue people for using JPEGs, accessing any files over any network, web browser plugins and equally stupid patents. The big way, to get a lot of money, for not doing anything, is to file a

patent, for an obvious and trivial idea, and then wait ten years, for everyone to adopt it, mainly doing so because it appeared to not violate any patents, and then sue a rich company, for violating your patent. This is not how patents were intended to work.

### **Trademarks**

When you start a new company, you can get in trouble, if you use the same name, as another company, in the same industry, especially if the name is not a generic and obvious name. For instance, if you start an office company and you call it Apple, you have no problem, but if you start a software business and call it Apple, you will get into trouble. Logos are not industry specific, so if you make a logo, for any business, that looks like a bite out of an apple, expect Apple, to force you, to change your logo.





## **Chapter 6**

# **Topics in Religion and History**

by Ben Huot

## **6.1 History Proves Christianity is Asian**

### **6.1.1 My Home Towns**

#### **Springfield vs. Eugene**

**T**he town I grew up in, Springfield, Oregon, is considered to be a very conservative and working class town. It used to be a logging town and now the economy is more based on the largest hospital in the area, that has expanded tremendously, very recently. The town I now live in, Eugene, Oregon, borders Springfield on the west side. Eugene is considered to be a very liberal town, very anti-business, and its economy is based around the University of Oregon and the local community college. Eugene is famous for having most the really violent anarchists living here, that gave a bad name, to some world trade organization protests, especially one time in Seattle.

#### **Mixed Realities**

The truth actually is somewhere in the middle. There are many progressives, that live in Springfield and many conservatives live in Eugene. The neighborhoods vary widely, even within a couple of blocks, in both cities. Eugene is presently the larger city and Springfield is growing much faster, mainly because the cost of housing is so much cheaper, in Springfield. I lived practically my whole life, up until I became 18 in Springfield and have lived practically the entire time since then in Eugene. The big reason why I live in Eugene is that I am much closer to main bus lines and areas that I shop at and find entertainment at.

#### **Typical Oregonians**

Most people who live in Oregon are very unfriendly, idealistic, small-town minded, and anti-traditional religion. More serial killers come from Oregon and Washington then from any other states. Most people in Eugene are



over 50 or students going to college. This is because, even before the economic depression in 2008, Oregon had very few jobs. Many people, with advanced degrees, work minimum wage jobs, if they can even get them, due to competition, with illegal immigrants.

### **Lack of Government Income**

We are also one of the few states, without any sales taxes and a few years ago property taxes were removed, due to a myth that the only people paying property taxes were small, poor, family farms. Most farmers are actually very rich. Land is expensive and so is farm equipment. The lack of taxes benefited the large businesses, like the hospital and the dwindling timber industry. Several high tech firms came here, while they were exempted from taxes, for a few years, and then quickly left.

### **What Kind of Liberal?**

Many of my perspectives on education are based on my experiences here. There are many different ways of being liberal, but the liberal element in Eugene is liberal in the sense of being very extreme in its feminist views, its white guilt, and its anti-Christian bias. Basically, the big stereotypes in the area is against white male Christians. Some of this is intensified by having very few people of color or Christians in this area. My experiences in both grade school and in community and university college reflected this.

## **6.1.2 Worldwide Perspective**

### **My Academic Experience is Typical**

It seems that my experience with feminism being the major emphasis in college is not unique. The majority of books I read on history constantly berate white Christian males, as causing all the problems in the world. This is simply not historically accurate. The problems that made Asia weak in the Middle East, South Asia, and East Asia

happened well before France and England became world empires. Furthermore, if western Europeans hadn't taken over much of the world that the Ottoman Empire would likely have conquered Europe and Christianity would be an obscure African religion.

### **Christianity was Always Asian**

During European Medieval times (also known as the Asian Golden Age) Christianity was strongest in the Middle East and on the Silk Road and before Christianity was legalized in the Roman Empire, there were already small Christian communities in Southern India (Kerala). The Roman Catholic Church was only one of four or five different centers of Christianity and was the least important academically, financially, and politically. There never was just one original Christian church structure.

### **Persecution of Christians**

Half the Ottoman Empire was Christian as late as 1900. All the areas that the successors to Mohammed conquered were all Christian and stayed that way for hundreds of years. Many historians decry the persecution of Jewish people in Europe, but the persecution of Christians in the Islamic empires was much worse. The concept we now called ethnic cleansing was done to the Christians who lived in the Middle East for hundreds of years. The world genocide originates as a word to describe how Syriac Christians were persecuted in the Middle East.

### **Christians in the Modern Middle East**

The main Christian group in Lebanon is a descendant of the Syriac Christians as well as 10% of both Egypt and Syria. Many times, when you see on the news, that Palestinians are referred to as entirely Muslim, you hear some local Palestinians say they are Christian. Christians have done much worse under the new Iraqi government and most Iraqi refugees were Christian, although they only

make up a small percent of the general population. Much of the violence in Darfur is Muslims against Christians.

### **Christians were the Indigenous Population**

The Syriac Christians were the descendants of the people who originally live in the Middle East and during Biblical times were known as Assyrians and Babylonians. The people now known as the Arabs lived originally in the place now called Saudi Arabia and are in so many countries in the Middle East, because they ruled it for over a thousand years. The big reason for the Crusades was to liberate some of the local Christians in the area and take back the land previously taken from Christian rule. The Inquisition happened at the end of the time, when the Spanish finally liberated their country, from the Muslims. It makes sense that the Spanish were extra vigilant about the purity of their people's faith, as it the land was ruled by Muslim Empires, for hundreds of years just prior.

### **Mostly Poor and Non-White**

Most of the Christian world now lives in poverty in the third world in Latin America, Africa, and Southeast Asia. There are very few Christians left in Europe and a very small minority of them are white. Islam is a bigger force in Europe than Christianity and there are more terrorists in a number of Western European countries than there are in a number of the countries in the Middle East. There are many African churches, who are sending missionaries to Europe.

### **Myth of the Rich White Christian**

The idea of the rich white Christian is a very rare situation, that only was true for a few hundred years in Europe and America, while the Western leaders were giving up their faith in Christ. Christianity outnumbers Islam 2 to 1 worldwide and is growing at a much faster pace, with most of the remaining strongly leaning to Christianity. Christianity has only been allowed, in most of these

countries, for the last hundred years, but Islam has been converting in these areas in Africa and Southeast Asia, for over a thousand years. Christianity has a dominant presence in the Philippines, Korea, and now in China.

### **Global Relevance of Christianity**

The Koran must be read in Arabic and people becoming Muslim take on the history of the Arabic people. The Bible has been translated and can be accurately understood in almost any language. The only history that Christians take on is the history of Israel. Most African Christians were converted by fellow black Africans and many places in the third world believe that Christianity is more culturally relevant than Islam. Ethiopia has been Christian from the same time that the Roman Empire legalized Christianity and has been almost completely isolated from Europe most of that time.

## **6.2 What Faith Means to Genuine Devotees**

### **6.2.1 Types of Religious People**

#### **Reasons for Conversion**

One of the downsides, to the dominance of historians, who have an anti-supernatural bias, is that much of the world, throughout history and most of the world today is religious and they usually underestimate the significance of religion. Many people choose different religions, for different reasons. Some people convert to a religion, because they are opportunists and they believe that they will do better financially and/or politically. This can be because they believe in the supernatural, and they think that one God is more powerful than another.

Another reason would be that they believe that the religion will serve the purpose of their career advancement by means of a socially powerful force. Some people, though, actually believe the religion to be true and to be

either the only way to God or a much better faith, because it makes their life better, or it makes other people's lives better. Often times, either way, that political loyalty and religious loyalty imply ones loyalty to one as loyalty to both.

### **When Faith is Ultimate Loyalty**

But, oftentimes, if the person is genuinely devoted to the religion and not just, to what it gets them, or their country, then the religion is more important to them and their loyalties will be religious, at the cost of patriotism, family ties, or fame/money. I, for instance consider myself to be loyal to the Christian God, and that even my family comes after that.

This often scares non-religious and religious people alike, because a lot of people, with supreme loyalty to their faith will do whatever they think their religion tells them to do, even if this can result in irrational and unpredictable behaviors. For most people, who really understand their religion, as a consistent worldview and have enough common sense, not to do what one particular scripture says, without factoring in the main concepts of their faith, (which are generally moral and productive to stable societies) there is little to worry about, especially in the unpredictability factor.

### **6.2.2 Characteristics of Genuine Devotee**

#### **Predictability**

There is always going to be a certain instability, when you start factoring in faith, because part of faith is going beyond the rational, into things that cannot be proved, as that is what the word faith literally means. But to people, who follow a major branch of their faith, are not creative in a dangerous way, and not person that likes taking unnecessary risks, people of faith can, at the very least, be predictable. Really, the same kind of person, who you would not trust, if they were a person motivated by prestige or money is the same kind of person you wouldn't

trust, who is motivated by faith.

Some people will be irrational, regardless of motivation and having someone of faith on your side means, at least, there is some kind of a moral angle in the motivation, which makes their loyalty much more predictable and also makes them more worthy of trust. A person motivated by just money or what they think is good for a group of people can be just as irrational and divided in loyalty, as someone of faith, who is not in their right mind and is unreasonable, in the logic, used in defense of their doctrines.

Any belief system that is moral will have good reasons for their doctrines, that can be understood, by others, who don't believe. Someone, who is open with their beliefs, is very likely to be extremely honest and public in their practice, if they really believe that their faith is legitimate. Fundamentally, a genuine person of faith is much more transparent and consistent, if not more moral, than those motivated by nationalistic or career advancement reasons.

### **More Willing to Follow**

People easily find other ways, to get what they want, for them or their group, when their motivation goes no higher and they meet an impasse. But a person of genuine, rational, and open faith is someone who puts socially useful limits, on what they will do, to push an agenda. The only situation, in which you wouldn't want to trust a person of faith is when you are both doing things that are immoral and you pressure the person of faith to take part in this. As far as Christianity is concerned, the Bible very clearly says for us to follow all laws, unless we cannot do what the Bible commands.

The bottom line is that a person of faith is the kind of person that follows rules, that are given by others, even if they don't want to follow them. They are willing to sacrifice their immediate desires, for what they believe is more important morally, in the long run. The only way you can get an opportunist to do so, is by convincing them, that following laws, gets them their objective or that their

objective would be undermined, by their breaking the rules.

## **6.3 Problems with Church Unity**

### **6.3.1 Historical Background**

#### **Major Divisions**

Many Christian seek to unite the entire Christian church and get rid of all the divisions and denominations. Some are closer than others and some Christian churches are more interested in joining together than others. One of the biggest divides in the church in America is the Evangelical branches and Liberal or Mainline Protestant branches of major American denominations like in the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. There are a number of theological, historical, and political reasons or a mixture of both in the divisions of the churches, especially the Protestant churches, over time.

#### **The Halloween Coalition**

There are good reasons why the Evangelical and Mainline Protestant branches would have trouble uniting. If God worked a miracle and both groups were willing to make major changes one in politics and the other in theology, it could work, but the scenario is as likely as what is referred to as the Halloween coalition, in American politics, where extreme conservatives and extreme liberals find commonality enough, to launch a third party, capable of defeating the American 2 party system. There must be some fear of this, because during the last few presidential campaigns (probably after seeing the success of Ross Perot) local police have been used to keep secondary candidates, like Ralph Nader and Pat Buchanan, from showing up at the presidential debates.

### **Minor Attempts at Unity**

For most Evangelical denomination branches in the US, it is probably hard for most members to tell the difference in the theology, if they joined another Evangelical church. Definitely Churches work together, for things like homeless shelters and for disaster relief. There was an Evangelical cross-denomination movement for men, called Promise Keepers. I don't know if it is still going though. I don't find an easy fit in either the Evangelical or Mainline Protestant churches, the first due to the politics and the second due to theology, but I am very unusual and ahead of my time.

### **6.3.2 Challenges**

#### **Roman Catholic Church Problem**

The Roman Catholic church combines those two aspects, but not very neatly, and I also have a low opinion of the Roman Catholic church, for its arrogance and inaccuracy in telling everyone that they are the original and only true Christian church and that they have been responsible for most the big persecutions in Church history. The Catholic church was responsible for everything from: the Crusades, the Inquisition, the safe passage of NAZI war criminals, and the mixing of Christianity with Animism in Latin America. And my biggest complaint: the persecution of churches, not affiliated with the Roman Catholic church, when they sent missionaries to parts of the world cut off from other Christian, for centuries (who were Christians before anyone in the West was a Christian).

#### **Chance for Failure**

For any churches to be brought together successfully, every member must be onboard, because if anyone splits, we would then have even more divisions, than ever before. And in some parts of the world, the indigenous Christian churches would do more for Christianity, to stay separate, from European originated churches. I can appreciate



why the Evangelical and Mainline Protestant churches had to split. I think the Evangelicals started more as a theological-based split, with the focus on Evangelism (recruiting new members) and keeping to a rigid theology, to keep from having Christianity losing essential theology, which would have transformed the church into something that didn't follow what the Bible said.

### **6.3.3 Points of View**

#### **Evangelical Perspective**

Certainly, from many of the strange opinions on the Internet, including things like: outright cults, combinations of Paganism and Christianity, Gnosticism, and other obvious perversions of Biblical doctrine, all claiming the title Christian, I can see that their reasoning is relevant today as it was when they started. There are obvious others, but I think most Evangelical Christians are aware of those. I think a lot of this comes from the Church rejecting education and people not understanding what the Bible actually says, by not reading the Bible, church leaders not being thorough in explaining theology, and people deliberately trying to push certain political agendas, very similar to and would help prove many of the popular conspiracy theories.

#### **Mainline Protestant Perspective**

I also similarly feel the pain of the Mainline Protestant churches, from a political point of view. We have Christians trying to justify torture of people not even proved to be enemies, the forfeiture of several very important constitutional rights, the creation of organizations whose purpose and structure are very similar to those set up in NAZI Germany and Soviet Russia, the removal of every law that prevented the Great Depression from reoccurring and another Great Depression following, the removal of almost all environmental laws, the invasion of a nation that had not attacked us, was a former ally, the occupation of done by volunteers, because of the cowardice

of Congress not issuing a draft, and the situation made worse for everyone involved, the same failure that caused 9/11 happened less than 10 years later, the complete failure of our disaster management agencies to deal with an inevitable hurricane, and on and on.

### **6.3.4 Chance of Success**

#### **Making the Situation Worse**

One big lessons, from history, as to the possible outcome, of even a very obvious and popular movement, with groups very similar in both theology and politics, is that it can easily backfire and make inter church relations much worse. If there is an defection or suspicion of the process, things could end up like, when the leaders of the political regimes supporting the Ethiopian church and the Eastern Orthodox church, both, at different times and places, asked for help from the Catholic church. In both cases, the political situation and the survival of the church in that part of the world was dire and it seemed like the differences were more political then theological, but when those leaders renounced their versions of Christianity and accepted the Roman Catholic church, the people who also were the members of those churches revolted.

#### **Don't Try this at Home**

To sum up, this is a good idea ideally, but it would never work in practice. The best and only way, for this to happen, without making the situation worse, would be to pray for it. But never bring up the idea to Evangelicals and by no means use my name, as many Evangelicals think I am New Age, even though they don't have the knowledge to make that judgement and I do.

## **6.4 Subtlety and Moderation**

### **6.4.1 Background**

#### **Make it Happen**

I am a person of extremes. I am a passionate person, when it comes to ideology. If I do decide to do something, that I think is important, I do it with all my strength. I never half do something. I am persistent in things I find important and am so stubborn, that I keep at something, until I am able to finish it. I often times circle around a subject, look over the major terrain, sort through the information later on, like zooming in on a photo, I finally find the right angle, and I go in for the kill. It is good, to have strength of character, conviction, and commitment, to following through, with what you believe in.

#### **Subtle in Subtlety**

On the other hand, subtlety and moderation are equally important, as I am finding more and more, in my life. I even would say that moderation and subtlety are the keys, to a happy life and getting along well, with others. But a person can go to extremes, even in being moderate and subtle. Remember to be subtle, in your moderation and moderate, in your subtlety. No one likes a person who splits hairs and makes things more complicated, than they need to be.

#### **Schizophrenia**

I have found, that with Schizophrenia, that I experience life, in a much more amplified way. For me, Schizophrenia increases my emotions, exponentially. I tend to enjoy activities, that have little interaction and require little thought. I enjoy food, that is simple and not strong in taste. I don't like: strong cheeses, spicy ingredients, food that is hot in temperature, too much sugar, too much oil, I find chips too salty, I can only eat a small amount of chocolate and like dark chocolate the least, I don't like

most nuts, and I don't like hard candy. Moderation makes my mental illness more manageable.

## **6.4.2 Techniques**

### **Being Assertive**

One of the keys, to getting along with others, is to be assertive, but not aggressive. In other words, to get people to cooperate, with you, you need to both not appear weak and at the same time be gentle enough, so that you don't anger them or scare them away. Subtlety is important in writing, as well. Politicians, who are basically the popular crowd, are very good at not offending anyone and making everyone feel, that their views are being represented.

### **Popularity and Politics**

The problem is that while people agree on most things in general, the details are what make or break the effort. When politicians get into office, they start making decisions, and inevitably disappoint, at least part, of their supporters. Politicians are hated mainly because they never want, to commit, to anything, or accept blame, for when things go bad. People don't feel that politicians are being honest. So, when you add moderation, to your life, and learn to be more subtle, be sure to use these ideas sparingly. Think of moderation and subtlety, as the outer shell, but your passion should provide the bulk of who you are.

### **Be Patient**

Most important, you must be honest, with yourself, and accept who you are. Sometimes things we would like, to change about ourselves, are just part of who we are and help us more, than they hurt us. Many things, that we think we need to completely remove, from our personalities may just need a minor adjustment. An example for this would be writing, to be understood, while still not insulting people, by making them feel you are beating them

over the head, with your ideas. And some of the things, that really bother us, about ourselves do need to change, but we need to be patient, because major life changes aren't going to happen, over night.

### **6.4.3 Challenges**

#### **Oversimplification**

Some of the problems the communists had, with ruling over a population, were due to their lack of subtlety. This is also a major American problem, as well. When we see many people on the news, that hate us and most of them are Muslim, we start to think that maybe the Koran teaches violence. It is likely that Osama Bin Laden is more popular, in most of the Muslim world, than the American President, but this does not mean that every Muslim is willing to act out in violence, against people, that can't defend themselves.

#### **Liberals vs. Conservatives**

Many liberals in America jump to some very wild and inaccurate about their impression of Evangelical Christians and vice versa. Many liberals think that Christians and radical Muslims approve of the same kind of treatment of women and that because they believe in something, by faith, that they cannot be smart or rational. Many Evangelical Christians think that liberals are unpatriotic, want to remove constitutional rights, and control the media. When we cannot see subtleties, in how we and others believe, we intensify the conflicts, over religion and politics.

#### **Theory of Elections**

One of the reasons why I think, that Americans vote for candidates, that alter back and forth, between 2 extremes, is because most of the population is reactive, rather than proactive. Just like our unwillingness to be disciplined in what we eat, how we spend our money, and in how we use computers, so we are unwilling, to make choices, that require sacrifice, in the short term, for long term happiness.

## **Businesses are in Control**

And businesses have realized this and have exploited this, for their own gain. It isn't a coincidence, that, when we do well economically, that we cut taxes, on the wealthy and remove regulations on businesses and when things go bad, we interfere, with the government, so that the same businesses don't go bankrupt. We do the same in the stock market as well: we invest in companies, when they are at their peak and sell them, after they start dying and continue to lose money.

## **Leadership and History**

Throughout history, many leaders were people of extremes, as well. Just like very few people, who are religious, bother studying about any other religion, so leaders, that were good at some aspects of governing, were unwilling to gain other ranges, of expertise. One of the big choices, that affected a nation's survival was whether the national government should be strong and put a minority of the population in power, or to allow regional areas and people of other ethnicities share power. Going to either extreme is usually not the best, but it is hard to take a middle course and what to do, in ruling a country, varied widely, on what country you were leading.

### **6.4.4 First Steps**

#### **The Middle Way**

Buddhism is famous, for being the middle way, because Buddha rejected asceticism and hedonism, alike. Christianity is too, in many ways. Christianity is a religion of moderation: between being mortal and feeling pain and being spiritual and confident of eternal joy, between law and heart, between reason and faith, being sure of salvation and yet in control of your own destiny, and between be saved from sin, but to try not to, even though you often fail.

**Find Your Path**

Many people think, that pleasure and pain are complete opposites, but that doesn't work, that way, in extremes. The Epicureans were widely thought, to have a philosophy of pleasure, but these philosophers realized, that extreme pleasure can bring pain. Some good examples, of this, are: addictions, ambitions, and self-esteem. Being moderate, by following rules and finding pleasure outside of work are both important. Embrace paradox, and find your own middle path, but start slowly.

**6.5 What are the Humanities?****6.5.1 Major Fields of Academic Study****The Sciences**

The humanities consist of every kind of academic study, that is not a natural science, an applied science, or a social science. Some of the major natural sciences are: physics, chemistry, and biology. Applied sciences apply scientific methods to different technical disciplines, including things like: engineering, research and development, and medicine. The social sciences came, as a result of the European Enlightenment and are an application of science and math, to explain people and cultures. Social sciences include: anthropology, archaeology, economics, geography, history, law, linguistics, political science, psychology, and sociology.

**The Humanities**

The humanities include every kind of academic discipline, relating to culture, that existed before the Enlightenment and social sciences were developed. The humanities include: ancient and modern languages, literature, law, history, philosophy, religion, visual art, music, and performing arts (like dance and theatre). The humanities study the same thing, as the social sciences, namely cultures, but differ in their approaches. The humanities are a way to understand what is important, to another culture, by

studying what has survived, of what the culture has created, rather than using the scientific method. In other words, the humanities are more subjective, than objective, in their perception of the world, which makes their perspective broader and more honest.

### **Advantages of the Human Approach**

The humanities tend to be more cross-discipline, as, in many cases, especially in the Asian humanities, compared to the social sciences, in that studying literature often means the same as studying philosophy, religion, history, and art because many of these classics are literary, historically, and philosophically significant. The humanities are also more culturally and historically relevant, than social sciences, because they let ancient and Non-European cultures speak for themselves, rather than using scientific principles, as the primary sources were often written by the same group of people, that they were writing about, and are so old, that the concepts of science and social didn't exist yet.

## **6.5.2 Variety of Areas to Study**

### **Cultural Exchanges**

The part, that really interests me most, in the process of learning about cultures and the humanities, is the mixture and cross-pollination, of belief systems and creative works. Many of the most interesting belief systems brought ideas, from other belief systems, so that the result often brought together the best of both worlds. I think that studying culture is exciting, because different groups of people, who live even in the same country, often have very different: religions, histories, languages, ethnicities, geographies, allegiances, values, goals, and worldviews.

### **Variety of Asian Cultures**

Asian cultures are so much more interesting, than European one, because their history tends to be much longer,



the quality of the creative work is much higher, and the field is much broader. When you study about Asian culture, you really are studying 3 or 4 different cultural areas, each as diverse, as all of Europe. China, which influenced mostly East Asia, India, which influenced mostly South and Southeast Asia, the Middle East, which influenced mostly Southwestern Asia and North and East Africa, and Central Asia, which influenced mostly the Silk Road, Eastern European, and Russian crossroads are all very different.

### **6.5.3 Importance of All Methods**

#### **Usefulness of Sciences**

The social and natural sciences, especially earth sciences, meteorology, economics, and psychology, in particular, give this generation and the ones succeeding it insights, into how, to make the most of our resources and predict, prepare for, and explain the current trends, that will shape our future. We now have the opportunity, to make better use, of our circumstances and our abilities now, that we have more ways, to see the world. In other words, we have the potential, to have much more control, over our future. The thing, that I hope we don't lose, along the way, is the humanities approach, to education. If we lose that, then there will be little left, to live for, even if we secure a better future, for ourselves.

#### **Usefulness of Humanities**

Just like we need people, to run our sewage and waste removal systems, our national, criminal, and environmental defenses, our education, health, and safety, and other support needed, for basic survival, if we don't have purpose and meaning in life, than we are no longer human. While the natural and social sciences do a good job in showing us ways, to keep the system, from breaking down, the reason for the system only becomes apparent, if we continue our written culture. Without engineers, doctors, and soldiers we would not be able to live, but without philoso-

phers, theologians, writers, and artists, there would be little point in keeping things going.

## **6.6 America and the British Empire**

### **6.6.1 America**

#### **Greater Purpose**

I have thought for a long time, without enough evidence to explain it, that the greater purpose of America, in the eyes of its leaders, is the same as that of the British Empire. I was going to devote a considerable amount of time and effort, to develop a complete explanation, of the connection. The funny thing is, that I had already understood it, quite well, from several other angles and had not attached as much significance to it, which is primarily explained, by my fairly unique perspective, on world history.

#### **Directions Taken**

This connection had eluded me, because I had assumed, that it was more complex and hidden. Ironically, throughout English and American History, society has consistently been moving, in, what I call a socially liberal direction, to be distinguished from my very different economically liberal political views. In other words, the common people have been given more and more freedoms, in areas such as religion and speech. I still hold that power was never given up and that the ideology of democracy does not reflect how America is governed.

#### **Relative Importance**

So the heritage, that connects America with England, is basically a development of the European Enlightenment. So, in realizing the simplicity in this view of the world, I have decided, as before, that modern European history just isn't as interesting, to study or as significant, in world history, as the Asian Golden Age, which confirms my whole emphasis on history and ideology. I think that

the main reason why people of other countries don't understand Americans, is because we are naive about world history. This is because we do not learn about any history other than our own in public schools. One of the reasons why Americans feel so bad about America's role in the world is because they have nothing to compare it to.

### **America is Not So Different**

I really believe that America is an Empire (it is definitely an Empire, when the country extends, from one side of the continent, to the other) and that we did kill off the native population, when we came over, to this continent. But, this is a continually repeated theme, throughout history. Almost every major empire has slaughtered those, who got into their way. The reality is America is no better or worse, than any other nation. Americans need to stop seeing everything, as we are told, by our government. We are being manipulated and made to feel bad about something we are not in control of and secondly are no different than anyone else.

## **6.6.2 Europe**

### **Why I Criticize Europe**

Many people, who read much of my writing, may think that I look down on Europe, for being a world bully or that European cultures are generally not as refined as most Asian ones. But this is not true. Again, Europe is no better than any other continent. The thing that motivates my criticism is that there is so much Anti-American sentiment coming from major European media about how American's caused all the problems in the world. The reason why I know this is not true is that America did not even exist, when these problems were fully developed.

### **European Realities**

Many Europeans like to think of themselves as very cultured and peace loving, but they almost destroyed them-

selves through almost 3 world wars. Many European nations also had major colonies well into the 1970s. Even though it might appear as though I am disparaging the state of life in Europe during Medieval times, because of my description of the common people's poverty, I actually think that Medieval Europe, in many ways, was more ideal, than the present time, or during the Enlightenment. My views on world history are spiritual in nature and I do not think more highly of Asia, because of their greater wealth, during this period.

### **Strengths and Weaknesses**

It is true that American has no culture. But we also haven't invented chemical weapons, car bombs, machine guns, tanks, and modern terrorist techniques. Americans also have no great pieces of architecture like cathedrals and castles, but we do have more tress left. American politics are run by big businesses, but so are European politics. Europe has much more advanced infrastructure than America, but in America our population density is much lower.